



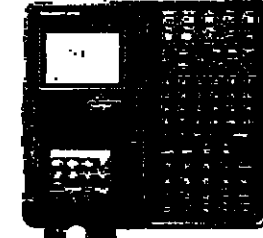
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MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1990/ZULQAD 18, 1410 AH

20 PAGES 150 FILLS

New faces rout an old guard; Kuwait says yes to Council, no to rusty sword

Amir's 'fourth wall' defends Kuwait

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
 Editor-in-Chief

THE new Kuwait spoke for itself yesterday and took a qualitative leap into the 21st century, clearly manifesting the meaning of national loyalty.

Large numbers of voters queued at polling stations to exercise

their franchise in electing members to the National Council and to declare at the same time their solid backing for the decision of the Amir.

It was HH the Amir who wanted this democratic experience in order to continue the march of democracy, to preserve the stability of society, and ensure the peace and security of the nation.

Non-oil GNP grows

KUWAIT, June 10, (Kuna): Gross national product of the non-oil sector in Kuwait during the first quarter of 1990 showed a growth rate of 5.8 per cent compared to the last quarter of 1989, cabinet was informed today.

Reporting to a regular cabinet meeting today, under HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, governor of the Central Bank, who also chairs a committee assigned with reactivating the national economy, cited bank statistics as estimating growth rate in the building and construction sector at 3.1 per cent by April this year, compared to the last quarter of past year.

According to Central Bank estimates, the sector of wholesale and retail trade grew by 7.1 per cent during the period, transport, storage and communications by 7.1 per cent, financial and reinsurance sector by 7.4 per cent and the real estate and other services sector by 6.6 per cent.

The Central Bank governor was reporting to the cabinet on progress of implementation of resolutions and recommendations devised to resuscitate economic activity in the aftermath of the crash in the 1982 stock market (the Manakh crisis), the falling oil prices in the early '80s

(Continued on Page 8)



A Kuwaiti casting his vote.

Results

Constituency	Registered	Voted	%
1) Sharq	1,566	1,059	67.6
Winners			
1) Ashour Yousef Al Sabagh (268)			
2) Kazem Bou Abbas (222)			
2) Mirqab	1,410		
Winners			
1) Ibrahim Abdulla Al Shehab (203)			
2) Bader Nasser Al Basher (172)			
3) Qibla	1,440	551	38.2
Winners			
1) Khalifa M. K. Al Khoraifi (215)			
2) Adel A. R. Al Bader (171)			
4) Da'ya	2,475		
Winners			
1) Sager Al Sudan (518)			
2) Mousa Ibrahim Roumi (488)			
5) Qadsiya	2,209	1,140	51.5
Winners			
1) Ahmad Ismail Behbehani (264)			
2) Mousa Ibrahim Jraidan (240)			
6) Faiha	2,270	861	38.0
Winners			
1) Mubarak M. Al Otaibi (306)			
2) Ahmad Fahd Al Jassar (174)			

(Continued on Page 8)

The response was remarkable. Despite the unsuitable timing of the election in the heat of June, the huge voter response is a clear indicator of a new popular will characterised by a challenging spirit divorced from the familiar faces of the Kuwaiti political arena.

Winners

Ayed Aloush; Hadi Hayef; Abdul Karim Al Juhaidi are among the former deputies elected again.

The birth of this new spirit, fuel for the future, is evidence that Jaber Al Ahmed, the Amir, has successfully achieved the major goal he intended in ordering the new experiment.

The new spirit evidenced in the response by the people of Kuwait also indicates that Jaber Al Ahmed correctly anticipated the desire of his people for change, and the need for the development of new structures for political work to consolidate and strengthen national unity.

Perhaps more importantly, by issuing his order, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed has rescued Kuwait from the hands of those who promote loyalty to others as loyalty to Kuwait.

The fact that safety can only be achieved through the homeland has been greatly emphasised by the Amir's order.

One voter commented that "what happened yesterday was the construction of a fourth wall to protect Kuwait designed by Jaber Al Ahmed."

Those who voted also wanted to prove that their relations and traditions can no longer be undermined by instigators with unjustified political claims. Their spontaneous and honest response also proved that the crises which for some time reversed facts, have now died out and can no longer deceive.

The support for Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed and his choice also carries with it the popular desire and promise for change.

(Continued on Page 8)

W. Germany, Brazil win

MILAN, June 10, (Reuters): West Germany beat Yugoslavia 4-1 (halftime 2-0) in the World Cup Group D match today.

Brazil beat Sweden 2-1 (halftime 1-0) in a Group C match.

(See Page 20)



Two boys campaigning for Abdul Rahman Al Kandari yesterday morning in front of an election centre at Jareer intermediate school in Maidan Hawalli. (Photo by Mohammad Baidak)

The other issues

By Diana Abou Halder,
 Lima Al Khalafawi
 Arab Times staff

ALTHOUGH most of the last-minute campaigning efforts concentrated on encouraging voters to head for the polls, a number of issues to be discussed in the Interim National Council were brought up by candidates since they started their campaigning about a month ago.

Housing was the most talked about issue. Bader Naser Al Aslawi, running for Khalidiya, believes that monthly instalments of housing loans should be reduced, or better yet, written off altogether. Abdul Gani Abdul

Gani, running for Hawalli called for upgrading the quality of the housing services, while Abdul Hameed Abbas Dashti, of Rumathiya called for developing housing policy.

Pay raises, pension, and welfare payments were also high on the list of future demands. Abdul Gani called for extending retirement age and increasing allowances for employees with technical jobs. Ayed Ali Al Hajiri, running for Khaian asked for pay raises for all Kuwait government employees, and a complete revision of retirement pensions. "Needy people such as divorcees and widows should be getting more than the KD200 they are getting now. Also a big number of them

refrain from asking for help," said Aslawi. Suggestions for activating the national economy were also made. Hmoud Abdulla Al Mutairi, running for Farwaniya told Arab Times that more steps should be taken by the government to encourage the private sector. He also called for more flexible labour laws that would give Kuwaiti as well as expatriate businessmen better opportunities to activate the local market.

If he wins the elections, Al Hajiri will demand that Kuwaiti government employees be allowed to open private businesses. Dashti

(Continued on Page 8)

British Airways jet's windshield blows out in midair

Pilot sucked out of plane rescued by crew

LONDON, June 10, (AP): A British Airways pilot was sucked out of his seat when his windshield blew out in midair today, but he was rescued by stewards while the copilot made an emergency landing, the airline said.

Capt. Tim Lancaster was pulled half way out of the pilot's seat through the cockpit window at 24,000 feet (7,000 metres), a British Airways spokesman said.

Steward Nigel Ogden, who was nearby in the forward galley, heard a loud bang and managed to grab the pilot's legs, the spokesman said, speaking

anonymously in keeping with British custom. "A second steward (John Howard) came in and joined him and they held on to him," while copilot Alistair Atchison landed at Southampton airport, 70 miles (113 km) southwest of London.

The British-built twin-engine BAEC 111, carrying 81 passengers and six crew, was making a scheduled flight from Birmingham to Malaga, Spain.

"I could see a body hanging out of the window with two men and a woman hanging on to his legs. They were trying to stop him being sucked out,"

said passenger Margaret Simmonds. Passenger Chris Opre, travelling with his girlfriend, Nichola, and 19-month-old son, said:

"We had been flying for about 20 minutes when there was a huge bang. There seemed to be some smoke immediately after the bang and suddenly there was a sheer panic. An air hostess standing near us at the back of the plane started to cry."

"I thought we were going to crash and began praying. My girlfriend, Nichola, who was sitting next to me was crying and hugging our son, James," he said.

heart failure. (Reuters)

CIA tip led to Mandela arrest: A tip from the US Central Intelligence Agency to South African authorities led to the 1992 arrest of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution said yesterday.

The respected newspaper, in an early edition of its Sunday newspaper, quoted an anonymous retired "former intelligence officer" for the United States as saying a senior American intelligence operative in South Africa told him of the spy agency's role in helping South African police arrest Mandela on August 5, 1962.

Madonna image in church: Thousands of people are flocking today to a Christian church in Baghdad to view what they say is an image of the Virgin Mary on the wall of the building. Witnesses said the image first appeared last Wednesday at the Syrian Catholic Church of Saint Zayya in the Dora district. Iraqi and foreign Christians as well as Muslims have formed long queues to see it.

Thousands arrested to end violence Security sweep across Sind

KARACHI, June 10, (AP): Police have arrested more than 3,300 people in a sweep across Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province following a month of ethnic violence, officials said today.

The arrests began June 4 in southern Sind province, the political power base of Benazir's 18-month-old government, said police officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sind, the heart of the country's financial and industrial base, has been plagued for years by a resurging wave of ethnic bloodshed.

More than 400 people have died since May 15 in fighting mainly between native Sindhis and Muslim Indian immigrants, known as Mohajirs.

Police officials said members of both groups had been arrested in the security sweep through the province's three largest cities, Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur.

But the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, (MQM) contends police arrested more than 4,000 people, mostly its members. Hundreds more are missing and thousands more

have fled underground, according to MQM leaders. "Hundreds of our people have been picked up over the last few days. We do not know where they are. They are not in jails where they ought to be if officially arrested," said one MQM member, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Our fear is that they are being beaten up to extract confessions," the leader said.

"About 55 per cent of those arrested are Mohajirs," MQM secretary-general Imran Farooq said.

"Several hundreds are missing," he told Reuters, accusing police and paramilitary forces of raiding Mohajir homes at night and harassing old people, women and children.

A Sind provincial government spokesman denied the charges and said only "miscreants" were being rounded up to recover illegal arms.

The relentless violence, which threatens Benazir's grip on power, forced her to call out the army to help the provincial government headed by her Pakistan People's Party restore law and order.

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DAY BY DAY

INDEED, there are some shameless people. They kill the man, as the proverb says, and participate in his funeral. Such type of humans are devils and hypocrites. They still want others to forgive them and want those who were harmed by them to come forward and apologise to them. They are devils and still want the lead. Such people want others to treat them in the best way although they mistreated them. We should not forget that it was these people who instigated others to refuse prosperity and for being ungrateful. Such people would remain full of envy and hatred.

Zabed Matar

NEWSWATCH



Indian security forces charge and tear-gas Kashmiri Muslims demonstrating in Srinagar for the secession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir from India. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soldiers beat blind man to death:

Israeli soldiers beat a blind 68-year-old Arab to death when he tried to prevent them from hitting his nine-year-old grandson, his family said yesterday.

The army denied the family's account, saying Mohammed Hussein Abu Zenada was untouched and died of a heart attack while troops searched for anti-Israeli activists in the Gaza Strip's Shati Palestinian refugee camp.

But Rubia Abu Zenada, 63, told Reuters: "I saw my husband being beaten by soldiers and even an officer. I screamed and they locked me in a room... I heard him groaning of pain."

The family said soldiers broke into their home on Saturday about 10 pm. When they began hitting nine-year-old Naim with gun butts, Abu Zenada tried to guard him and was beaten until he died.

"My grandfather fell on his face to the ground," Naim told Reuters. He died before an army medic arrived, the boy said.

Rubia Abu Zenada said the army medic used the Arabic expression "God gave and took" to announce her husband's death.

The army said soldiers went to the house for a search and the old man collapsed and died of

Americans debate suicide: death machine or high-tech beheading

WASHINGTON, June 10, (Reuters): A "doctor-assisted" suicide in Michigan this month has rekindled a long-standing controversy over Americans' right to die their own way — including a mathematician who wants his head cut off and frozen.

In an act which enraged many in the US medical establishment, Dr Jack Kevorkian connected a 54-year-old woman who had been told she was suffering from Alzheimer's disease to a "suicide machine" designed to kill by lethal injection.

"I think it was the right thing to do," Kevorkian said in a telephone interview from his home in Royal Oak, Michigan. "She wanted to end her life before the disease took her mind."

Alzheimer's disease gradually destroys the brain cells and wipes out memory, leaving victims unable to perform even basic tasks and eventually killing them.

After treatment with an experimental drug failed to halt her deterioration, Janet Akins decided to seek Kevorkian's help and travelled 3,200 km (2,000 miles) to Michigan from her home in Oregon, where strict laws would have caused legal problems for anyone helping her to end her life.

The fear of dying helpless and without dignity has prompted thousands of

Americans to join groups that fight for the individual's right to die and provide information on painless methods.

The ethical and legal aspects of assisted suicide — banned in every state but Michigan — have taxed courts across the country but perhaps the most intriguing problems raised to date are in California.

There, Thomas Donaldson, a 46-year-old mathematician with an incurable brain tumour, is fighting for the right to be decapitated. He wants to have his head put in frozen storage until such time as medicine is capable of bringing it back to life and health

and attaching it to a new body.

Donaldson wants to use a procedure known as cryonic suspension, in which his body temperature would be lowered gradually and his blood replaced with chemicals to prevent the tissue damage that results from freezing.

Then his head would be severed and stored in a container of liquid nitrogen at hundreds of degrees below zero.

Donaldson has filed a lawsuit to secure the right to have the operation performed before the tumour destroys his brain — and before he is declared legally dead. Advocates of this

method say waiting for legal brain death reduces the chances of future success in reawakening.

There are obvious parallels between the Donaldson case and Adkin's wish to die before being incapacitated by Alzheimer's disease. But Donaldson insists that his mind is far from suicide.

"We have here a fundamental disagreement about what constitutes death," he told Reuters in a telephone interview from his home in Sunnyvale, California. "What is suicide to other people is not suicide to me or other cryonists. Nor for the people who would be suspending me."

These people run the Alcor Foundation, one of three companies in the United States that specialise in cryonic suspension. So far, only people who have died have been placed in liquid nitrogen containers for future resuscitation.

"They can be preserved indefinitely," Alcor president Carlos Mondragon told Reuters. "And what will be needed to repair people and get them out of cryonic suspension is something called molecular engineering, which has made considerable advances over the past few years."

The 14 "patients" being preserved at Alcor range in age from 23 to 83.



Chase on motorbike

American cyclist Kevin Foster chases a group of wild horses around the grasslands of Inner Mongolia in northwest China on June 9. Foster is halfway in riding the entire length of the Great Wall stretching 1,400

miles and took a break to entertain local herdsman with his high-tech mountain bike before continuing his odyssey. (Reuters wirephoto)

Researchers need sleepers

Weightlessness effect

THE WOODLANDS, Texas, June 10, (AP): Help wanted. Baylor College of Medicine seeks 16 good sleepers to spend a month lying down. Salary is uncertain, but benefits include breakfast in bed — lunch and dinner, too.

It sounds like a lazy person's dream, but there's a catch to the deal being offered by researchers David Cardus and Wesley McTaggart. When they say the sleepers will be confined to bed, they're not kidding. The people they select won't be allowed to get up for the entire month, and they'll spend part of their time spinning around in a space-age sleep chamber that looks like something straight out of a science-fiction movie.

The experiments also will require the research subjects to be hooked up to sensors that monitor a dozen bodily functions.

Cardus and McTaggart, using a \$650,000 grant from NASA, are involved in a three-year programme to see if physical strain can be eased on astronauts making lengthy space voyages.

The research is designed to counteract some of the physiological effects of weightlessness during space travel — a pertinent topic in light of US plans to establish a permanent space station and to send astronauts to Mars.

"What happens if you stay in bed?" asks Cardus, a physiologist who has worked with astronauts since the beginning of the United States' manned space programme. "You get deconditioned. And why don't you get completely deconditioned? Because you spend two-thirds of the day carrying your weight around."

Once someone gets into space, they don't have any weight to carry around. Their bodies, especially the cardiovascular systems, get deconditioned by weightlessness.

Early astronauts sometimes fainted upon their return to earth, and even now, space shuttle crews and cosmonauts on the Soviet space station must halt their work after a few hours to do exercises to keep their muscles in shape, he says.

French favour licensed brothels

PARIS, June 10, (AP): A former health minister has called for the legalisation of brothels to help fight Aids, and a poll made public yesterday suggested most French people think it's a good idea.

Women's rights advocates say lifting the 44-year ban on brothels would amount to state-sanctioned slavery.

But a Louis Harris poll indicated strong public support for the suggestion by the former health minister, Michele Barzach, one of the few women with a high profile in French national politics.

Of the 1,008 people surveyed, 80 per cent said reopening brothels would help control Aids by allowing closer medical supervision of prostitutes, according to the poll.

According to unofficial estimates, France has 75,000 to 90,000 full- or part-time prostitutes. About 10,500 cases of Aids have been recorded in France since 1982.

Ms Barzach, a 46-year-old gynaecologist, was health minister from 1986 to 1988 in the conservative government of Premier Jacques Chirac.

Many of her policies stirred controversy. During her tenure, she helped launch campaigns to reduce tobacco and alcohol consumption, denounced surrogate motherhood, cut back on state-paid medical benefits and led a campaign against Aids that included scrapping a ban on condom advertisements.

The current furor was set off by an interview published Thursday in the newspaper Le Monde, in which Ms Barzach discussed the Aids threat.

"The current situation is unacceptable and frightening," she said. "It's necessary to reopen the licensed brothels. Let's install a genuine health system."

Licensed brothels were shut down on April 13, 1946, under the "Marthe Richard Law," named for its legislative sponsor, a World War I spy and World War II resistance member.

Quarrel leads to hijacking

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 10, (AP): A Soviet youth using a fake hand grenade hijacked a Soviet airliner after quarrelling with his father but surrendered to police shortly after arriving here, officials said.

A lawyer for the youth, 17-year-old Dmitry Semionov, said an argument with his father over a moped prompted him to act.

Semionov, a technical high school student, said he was depressed by his situation at home when he decided to hijack the plane.

"My parents drove me away.... I didn't have anywhere to stay," he said in a radio interview. "I didn't wish to harm anyone, but I saw no other method."

"It may sound unpatriotic, but I know that the society here is freer and the change in our country is too slow," he said speaking in Russian. "Everything got worse and worse and I was very disappointed."

The Aeroflot plane landed at Arlanda International Airport, 40 km (24.8 miles) north of Stockholm at 12:30 am (2230 GMT) and Semionov surrendered after an hour of negotiations.

After police searched for explosives, the 114 passengers and seven crew members aboard the three-engine Tupolev 154 continued the journey 7-1/2 hours later.

The plane had been flying from the Byelorussian capital of Minsk, where Semionov lives, to the Soviet Arctic port of Murmansk.



Sailing record

Frenchman Serge Madec sails his catamaran Jet Services as he arrives in Lorient, western France. Madec broke his own transatlantic sailing record by more than 17 hours. Madec and a crew of four arrived at the Lizard-southernmost point of the British mainland — just six days, 13 hours, three minutes and 32 seconds after leaving New York. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gabor decides to serve 3-day sentence

LOS ANGELES, June 10, (Reuters): Entertainer Zsa Zsa Gabor, found guilty of slapping a Beverly Hills policeman, has decided she will serve a three-day sentence for assault given her by a judge.

At her trial last year Gabor was ordered jailed, fined \$12,000 and ordered to perform 120 hours of community service for assaulting officer Paul Kramer after he had stopped her for a traffic violation as she drove her Rolls-Royce through Beverly Hills.

Last month municipal judge Charles Rubin found that the actress had failed to perform the full

120 hours of community service, cited her for violation of probation and added 60 more hours of obligatory service, bringing the total of 180 hours.

At a ritzy celebrity auction on Friday night the acid-tongued, Hungarian-born entertainer said she would surrender herself for imprisonment in July.

"I don't even want him (Judge Rubin) to know me anymore," Gabor told more than 200 of her friends at the charity function. "I'm going to jail for him and work another 94 hours (of community service) for him and then I'm going to say, 'goodbye, dear judge.'"

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Kennedy, Cuomo

Closed wedding attended by 300

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP): Kerry Kennedy and Andrew Cuomo were married yesterday in a ceremony that merged two of the most powerful political families in the United States.

The bride, 30, is the daughter of the late Robert F. Kennedy and is executive director of the human rights centre in New York City which bears his name.

The groom, 32, is New York Gov. Mario Cuomo's son and chief political adviser; he currently heads a Manhattan foundation to help the homeless.

The elaborate, closed wedding, attended by 300 people, was held at the cathedral of St. Matthew, a Roman Catholic church near the White House and where the late President John F. Kennedy's funeral was held in 1963.

Kerry Kennedy, the late president's niece, was just 3 years old when he was assassinated, just 8 when her father was gunned down. She was the seventh of Robert and Ethel Kennedy's children.

BRANDON, Manitoba, Canada: It is not easy being a doomsday prophet. Just ask Kevin McKay.

McKay, 25, is one of 20 Australian Christians who have spent the past five months standing on American and Canadian street corners handing out pamphlets.

Titled the fall of America, the 23-page pamphlets are adorned with a hand-drawn, tattered, upside-down US flag and suggest the United States is doomed to fall to a surprise Soviet military attack. Some group members also wear T-shirts adorned with the same symbol.

In the United States, the Australians discovered Americans are sensitive about the way their flag is portrayed. Some have even pointed guns at the group to make sure the message is getting across.

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana: Allen Ginsberg wants a parents' group to apologise for requesting that high school students have restricted access to an anthology of his poems.

The group, coalition of concerned minority parents, also criticized the lack of black authors in the library of north central high school. (AP)

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, New Jersey: Beth Corey gazed forward and was surprised to see her boyfriend, Kevin O'Keefe, on the screen as they waited for the movie to begin at a theatre.

In the Silent Short, three of O'Keefe's male friends, dressed as women, vie for his attention. But O'Keefe, 25, remains true to Ms Corey, wooing over a photograph of the 25-year-old woman.

O'Keefe, who has dated Corey for six years, had worked for a year on the four-minute film and had secretly plotted to have it played as Corey sat by his side. He was so confident of her response that he told 40 friends and a newspaper reporter and photographer to join him in the surprise Saturday night.

"She brings up marriage about every six hours," said O'Keefe. A salesman for a film supply company.

Ms Corey said yes. (AP)

RANDOLPH, Pennsylvania: Amid speculation that he is ready to quit television to run for the US Senate, Phil Donahue says he is not sure about it — yet.

"I'm obliged to do the show until 1992, so any political plans I might make would not go into effect until the 1994 elections," The US talk show host said in the June 9 issue of TV Guide. "I'm really very undecided at this time," said Donahue, a Democrat and a 23-year veteran of television. (AP)

NEW YORK: If you have rented a videotape to watch on your new television set while eating your favourite food, you should be a very happy consumer, a new survey says. But paying to go to a movie or to a ballgame likely makes you wince.

The conference boards said Wednesday a nationwide survey of 7,000 families found that consumers say they are getting their money's worth when they buy chicken, fruit and vegetables, televisions and other appliances, and in renting videotapes. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: Randy Travis, top entertainer the previous two years at the TNN-Music City News Country Awards Show, came up empty-handed despite being a finalist in five categories.

Rick van Shelton was chosen Entertainer of the Year and top male vocalist, and Patty Loveless was named Female Vocalist of the Year.

"I'm shocked, really shocked," Shelton said Monday night after the 24th annual fan-voted awards. "I'm really, totally in awe." (AP)

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Contras disarm to meet deadline

EL ALMENDRO, Nicaragua, June 10, (AP): President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro bid a farewell to arms and thousands of Contras lined up to turn in their guns in a symbolic last push to meet today's deadline for demobilisation.

"This emotional act puts an end to war in Nicaragua," President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro told the rebels assembled in the grassy town square.

"Farewell to arms and war. We are now going to live in brotherhood," she said following a mass offering by Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

But Santiago Murray of the Organisation of American States mission providing aid to the demobilised rebels said the process will continue several days beyond the deadline.

OAS and United Nations personnel were brought here to process the disarming rebels.

About 2,000 rebels were taken to the area in 30 trucks belonging to their longtime enemy, the Sandinista People's Army, for the weekend demobilisation. Disarmament was to continue at other security zones.

Contra rebels had begun disarming May 7, but the process was suspended twice. Some 7,500 members of the 12,000 member irregular army were processed yesterday and Chamorro expressed hope to achieve the goal by today.

But Murray said that the international organisations do not have the capacity to process more than 500 rebels a day and bad weather was slowing down the disarmament at Almendro.

At least six rebel commanders handed over their combat rifles as Chamorro looked on before a heavy thunderstorm sent people scattering for cover.

Among the Contra leaders disarming were Jose Benito Bravo, the Contra chief of military intelligence, and Max Rodriguez, whose nom de guerre is Commander Wilmer.

They and thousands of rebels stood in line to be processed by UN and OAS officials as a first step before returning to civilian life.

Top Contra chief Israel Galdamez, known as Commander Franklin, told his assembled fighters that disarming is one of the "concrete steps that are being taken toward democracy," and said the demobilised rebels now "join in the efforts toward reconstruction."

As the rain splattered in the square, United Nations peace-keeping troops broke up the rifles, using acetylene torches to cut through the metal.

Costa Rican A steady stream of Costa Ricans filed past the body of three-time President Jose Figueres yesterday to pay their last respects to the father of their country's modern democracy.

Figueres, popularly known as "Don Pepe," died in his home on Friday of heart failure at the age of 83. (Reuters)

Dominican Republic: A delegation of the Dominican Liberation Party will travel to the United States early next week to meet with members of the US Congress over what they claim is an election fraud in the May 16 elections, a party official said Saturday.

Vicente Bengoa said that the delegation will also travel to the Carter Centre in Atlanta. Former President Jimmy Carter was one of 30 international observers in the past election. (AP)

Mexico: A journalist who was shot by unknown assassins at his home in the southeastern state of Chiapas earlier in the week died yesterday in Mexico City, hospital officials said.

Alfredo Cordova Solorzano, editor-in-chief of the newspaper UNO Mas Dos, of Tuxtla Gutierrez, 400 miles (640 km) southeast of the capital, was brought to a Mexico City hospital in critical condition and was pronounced dead at 5:30 am. (UPI)

Infant hurt by bomb

BRISTOL, June 10, (AP): A bomb planted on an animal researcher's car exploded this morning and seriously injured a 13-month-old boy who was nearby, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion, but police said they were investigating whether there was a connection with a bomb attack on Wednesday on a car owned by a veterinarian near Salisbury.

The baby, identified as John Cupper, suffered burns and shrapnel wounds and a finger was partially severed, police said.

Top alert for Peru polls

Leftists threaten 'armed strikes' to block voting

LIMA, June 10, (AP): Thousands of Peruvians, protected by police and soldiers against terrorist attacks, lined up early today to cast their votes for president.

On the eve of the run-off election between novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and Alberto Fujimori, Maoist Shining Path guerrillas called for "armed strikes" to block the voting. They were blamed for a killing and eight bombings yesterday in the Andean city of Huanuco.

The government said more than 80,000 police were on alert throughout the country. Thousands of army troops patrolled areas, mostly in the Andes mountains, where the guerrillas are most active.

As polls opened at 8 am (1300 GMT), security was heavy in Lima. People entering polling places were searched for weapons while police patrolled the streets outside in armoured vehicles. Traffic was diverted around voting stations to avert attacks.

The polls were to close at 3 pm (2000 GMT). Unofficial results were expected late tonight but official returns will not be available for several weeks due to the slow vote-count from isolated mountain and jungle areas.

Vargas Llosa, 54, a conservative champion of free markets, and Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants who was an obscure agricultural engineer when the presidential campaign began, were in a dead heat, according to independent polls released Friday. By law, President Alan Garcia, whose five-year term ends July 28, can't run for a consecutive five-year term.

The winner will inherit a violent and bankrupt country that many believe is ungovernable, an opinion Fujimori disagrees with.

"It's a fallacy to say this country is ungovernable," Fujimori, a 51-year-old independent, said in an interview. "The country is governable, but the political parties have demonstrated they're incapable of governing."

Voting is required by law for all 10 million civilians over 18 years old. Violators are subject to heavy fines.

The runoff was required after no candidate received a majority in the first round of balloting April 8.

The guerrilla strike call, issued in pamphlets, crudely painted wall posters and messages to radio stations, carried with it the threat of violence against those disobeying the order to boycott the election.

In Huanuco, 186 miles (300 km) east of Lima, the body of a man was found near the local cemetery with the hands tied and a note stuck to the chest reading: "We kill informants this way," it said. Police blamed the Shining Path, who are waging a 10-year-old insurgency.

Eight bombs exploded yesterday in the city, damaging houses of local political leaders but causing no injuries, the police said.

The winner of the presidential race will inherit such problems as:

■ Annual inflation of 2,000 per cent. Wages have lost 50 per cent of their purchasing power in the past two years.

■ Two leftist insurgencies. Political violence takes nine lives a day and at least 18,500 have been killed in the last decade. The economic damage is more than \$15 billion, rebels control large parts of the interior and one-third of Peru is under military control.

■ A foreign debt of \$20 billion, one of the highest per capita in South America.

Hookahs can transmit Aids

CAIRO, June 10, (Reuters): An Egyptian doctor has warned that smoking traditional hookahs or water-pipes could lead to Aids.

In an interview in Monday's Al-Gomhouria newspaper, Ismail Salam said several diseases, including the killer virus acquired immune deficiency syndrome, could be caught from a water-pipe.

He said that the hookahs, which are used in social gatherings, often have a common mouthpiece that is shared between users.

The doctor said that the hookahs are often used in a way that allows the smoke to be inhaled directly into the lungs, which increases the risk of infection.

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Fujimori waves a bouquet during a campaign meeting in Peru yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stakes his prestige

Llosa vows to save Peru

LIMA, June 10, (Reuters): Mario Vargas Llosa staked his international prestige as one of Latin America's most famous writers in a last bid in today's run-off elections to take over as Peru's next president.

A former leftist without political experience who became an admirer of Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Vargas Llosa had looked certain to win before April's first-round vote.

Vargas is considered a major voice of liberalism and free-market in Latin America, where newly-elected governments in several countries are reducing down the state's role in the economy.

"I have not left my study and my books to take anybody's job, but to save Peru," Vargas has repeatedly told political rallies.

His hopes for a landslide victory were dashed by another newcomer to politics, Alberto Fujimori, who surged from nowhere to garner 25 per cent of the vote.

The 54-year-old writer captured only 28 per cent of the vote, according to official returns, and is now pitted in today's run-off against Fujimori, an agronomist and son of Japanese immigrants.

But Vargas Llosa has fought back in the intervening weeks to pull level with his rival and today's vote has become an open contest.

Vargas Llosa has pledged to lead an all-out war against the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas who bid to turn Peru into a peasant-worker state has left about 19,000 people dead.

In an ironic twist, the self-confessed agnostic appears to have won support from Peru's Catholic Church against Evangelist-Protestant sects backing Fujimori in what the local press has called a "holy war".

Some of Peru's conservative bishops have voiced fears that if Fujimori becomes president, the Evangelists could dent the church's power in this staunchly Catholic country.

Fujimori is himself a Catholic.

Vargas Llosa has shunned his savile row suits in favour of open shirts and leather jackets in a bid to lure Lima's shanty-town dwellers to his side.

He is ready to succeed embattled President Alan Garcia and has pledged to slash an inflation that reached 2,700 per cent last year to 10 per cent in his first year in power.

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Favoured to win

Fujimori charms Peruvian voters

LIMA, June 10, (Reuters): Alberto Fujimori, an agronomist unknown to most Peruvians a few months ago, has stunned the nation with a political tidal wave.

Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, surged from nowhere to finish a close second behind novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in the first round of voting on April 8, then became the favourite for today election. Political commentators called his surge the "Tsunami" — Japanese for tidal wave.

He charmed Peruvians with a simple, homespun style in campaigning for the first round of voting, but then waged a more aggressive campaign in the run-off election.

The bespectacled Fujimori rode a tide of voter apathy towards traditional politics in the April voting to defeat Peru's established parties, including the ruling Apristas discredited by economic crisis and leftist guerrilla violence.

While Vargas Llosa spent millions of dollars on his campaign and hired US media consultants, Fujimori began his campaign from the back of a flatbed lorry, touring the countryside around Lima with his wife Susana and four children.

Word of his campaign spread like wildfire. With heavy support from the poor, he won 25 per cent of the vote to 28 per cent for Vargas Llosa out of a field of nine candidates.

Political analysts are still trying to figure out how Fujimori, 51, but looking 10 years younger, managed the feat.

Since then, he has quickly learned the ways of Peru's rough-and-tumble politics, waging an aggressive campaign often laced with charges of personal misconduct against Vargas Llosa.

A distinguished academic, Fujimori rose to become rector of the National Agrarian University after graduating from the same school and the University of Wisconsin.

He is also a successful real estate developer and sold several properties to finance his campaign. But his political thinking was a mystery to most Peruvians until a television debate with Vargas Llosa one week before the election, in which Fujimori put himself squarely to the left of his rival.

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Canada leaders agree on accord

No celebration in Montreal

MONTREAL, June 10, (Reuters): Canada's leaders are congratulating themselves on signing a document meant to appease Quebec and hold the nation together, but some in the French-speaking province believe the plaudits are premature.

Leaders of all 10 Canadian provinces signed an agreement yesterday which, barring last-minute hitchhikes, rescues the so-called Meech Lake Accord of 1987 recognising the distinct status of Quebec within a largely English-speaking Canada.

But many in Quebec believed the centuries-old shotgun marriage between English and French Canada will be over by the end of the century — Meech Lake or no Meech Lake.

There were no celebrations in Montreal, the province's biggest city, where some residents expressed outright indifference.

Mandela for secure Israel

Blast in South Africa

GENEVA, June 10, (AP): Leaders from US Jewish groups met with Nelson Mandela today to discuss the African National Congress leader's stance toward the state of Israel and declared the talks had exceeded their "fondest expectations."

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, told journalists after the two-and-a-half hour meeting that Mandela stressed the ANC's support for Israel's right to exist within "secure borders."

But Siegman added that the ANC deputy president had criticized the Israeli government's treatment of Palestinians and called on the government to hold direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation to settle the Palestinian uprising in the territories occupied by Israel.

Siegman, who co-ordinated the visit of the six Jewish leaders to Geneva, said the Jewish community should "join actively and vigorously in extending a warm welcome" to Mandela during his 10-day trip to the United States starting June 20.

Several US Jewish groups recently warned they will protest against Mandela's visit. They accused the ANC deputy president of being anti-Israeli after he compared the struggle of Palestinians to black South Africans and publicly embraced PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Siegman said the meeting, that lasted 90 minutes longer than expected, had put an end to the concern over Mandela's stance, though the Jewish delegation disagreed with his views on talks between Israel and the PLO.

Siegman reported the black leader had said the "ANC accepts unequivocally the existence of the state of Israel, not only de facto but also its legal right to exist ... within secure borders."

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Siegman told a press conference that Mandela said these borders should not encompass the Golan Heights, Gaza and the West Bank which were captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

He added that Mandela said he would "welcome" an opportunity to visit Israel if invited by the government.

"I will probably raise my voice and proclaim he (Mandela) is a friend," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the anti-defamation league of B'nai B'rith.

Meanwhile, a bomb blast rocked the offices of the black National Union of mineworkers in the mainly right-wing mining town of Welkom in the Orange Free State last night, the South African Press Association said.

It quoted a police spokesman as saying the blast caused substantial damage but no injuries were reported. No one had claimed responsibility.

Welkom, about 300 km (200 miles) south of Johannesburg in the gold fields of the Orange Free State, has been tense since whites formed vigilante groups in march to halt what they called a dramatic rise in petty crime.

The blast occurred on the day South Africa relaxed a four-year-old state of emergency in most parts of the country, retaining special security powers only in the strife-torn Indian Ocean province Natal.

It also released 48 political prisoners in what President F.W. de Klerk had called a gesture of conciliation while the ANC studied proposals for the release of up to 3,000 political prisoners in total.

"We are happy to be released," said Jeffrey Radebe. "But our happiness is not complete today when we think of all the comrades we left behind."

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"I don't care about Meech Lake. What I want to know is what these meetings were costing — they're not eating hot dogs," said John Pageau, a Montreal doorman.

"Meech Lake is too little, too late," said Pierre Fournier of the University of Quebec, referring to the aim of many Quebecers to achieve more autonomy than Meech Lake would give them.

This perception is bound to collide, sooner or later, with English Canada's feeling that it has bent over backward to please Quebec and now expects some co-operation from the province, said Alain Gagnon, a professor at McGill University.

Part of Quebec's disenchantment with the accord is due to the fact that the province's aspirations have outgrown the agreement.

Polks show close to two-thirds of Quebecers want some measure of independence for the province, more than at any other time in the 123-year-old confederation's history.

That feeling is not shared by the province's English-speaking community, however, which worries about its role in a sovereign Quebec.

In addition, many businessmen would prefer to avoid upheaval that a separation would cause.

The French Canadians also took a dim view of the six-day, closed-door meetings convened in Ottawa by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to ensure passage of the Meech Lake accord, which dies if not ratified by June 23.

Jacques Brassard, a member of the opposition Parti Quebecois, last week demanded that liberal Premier Robert Bourassa leave the talks. "In Ottawa, he's on all fours and that's an indecent position."

The agreement came in Ottawa at the end of the seventh day of private talks aimed at persuading holdout provinces to approve the package.

"We've got a deal," said Ontario Premier David Peterson after emerging from the session yesterday and giving a thumbs-up sign to reporters.

"I'm happy with it," he said.

"It's great for the country."

"It was a great exercise in nation building," he said. "There was blood in the floor, but it was common blood."

New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna, who had been another holdout until the latest talks, called the compromise "the best deal possible."

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Pregnant women can gain weight, say experts

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP) — Pregnant women who eat balanced diets don't need extra vitamins and can safely gain more weight than previously believed, according to guidelines released by a research institute affiliated with the US government.

The guidelines from the Institute of Medicine, based on a review of studies on nutrition, weight gain and pregnancy, say the average woman who gains 25 to 35 pounds (11 to 16 kilograms) during pregnancy is more apt to produce a healthy, normal-weight baby. The study also said that, with few exceptions, vitamins and

other good supplements are of no value in pregnancy.

In effect, said Lindsay Allen, a professor of nutrition at the University of Connecticut, the study committee concluded that mother nature may know best.

"Women, when they are not told to restrict their diet during pregnancy, normally gain this amount of weight (25 to 35 pounds) (11 to 16 kilograms)," said Ms Allen, who was a chairman of a study subcommittee. "What we are doing is recognising that dietary restriction in pregnancy is not a good idea. Normal weight gain is better."

"Evidence that the committee reviewed is the reported experience of large groups of women," said Dr Roy M. Pitkin, an obstetrician at the University of California at Los Angeles who chaired the committee that released the study Wednesday. "In a sense, this brings health recommendations in line with what is actually happening."

Officials in the nutritional supplement industry were quick to dispute the committee findings that said vitamin pills were of no value in pregnancy.

"This outrageously anti-health report potentially dooms thousands of children to

an early death or at best substantial disability due to serious birth defects," J. B. Cordaro, president of the Council for Responsible Nutrition, a vitamin industry organisation, said in a statement. "This report is a recipe for risk and the people who prepared the report must be held accountable for any potential harm which may come from following their advice."

Cordaro cited studies that showed some nutrients, such as folic acid, may reduce the risk of spina bifida and other neural tube birth defects.

Ms Allen said, however, that the committee found early studies to be inconclusive. Furthermore, she said, the amount of nutrient sufficient to affect birth defect rates would be consumed in a normal, balanced diet.

Weight gain in pregnancy has been a major issue in medicine since the 19th century, when physicians believed over-eating led to large babies and difficult labours. In recent years, most doctors have followed guidelines established in 1970 by the National Research Council, another government-affiliated body, that advised women to gain no more than 25 pounds (11

kilogrammes) during pregnancy.

But Ms Allen, who gained just over 30 pounds (13 kilogrammes) during her own recent pregnancy, said members of her committee studied new statistical data that shows "women can gain more weight and have babies who are bigger and healthier at birth. They used this new supporting evidence to say that weight gain should be higher than recommended previously."

The report said weight gain during pregnancy should be evaluated on an individual basis, considering the woman's height and body type.

Turin devil's playground?

Haven for disciples

TURIN, Italy, June 10, (AP) — Real or imagined, the devil is tormenting this sober industrial city in northwestern Italy.

Some believe a sinister presence lurks in the shadows along the city's broad, arched boulevards and haunts the medieval squares in the nearby mountain hamlets of the Piedmontese Alps.

The city likes to be remembered as the former seat of the House of Savoy dynasty, the first capital of a unified Italy, the resting place of saints and religious relics, the home of the Fiat auto empire.

It's also the home of the shroud of Turin, which some believe was the cloth with which Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the body of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion.

But Turin has a darker reputation as a haven for Satan and his disciples.

There is no proof, of course. But what is certain is that the city has six official exorcists, an underground core of devil worshippers and thousands of people dealing in the occult.

Specialists in the occult maintain that Turin forms part of two "magical" triangles representing good and evil.

Along with Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Lyon, France, the city is reputedly a centre of "white magic," a positive force. Turin is also said to join London and San Francisco as a stronghold of "black magic," which is considered harmful or diabolic.

"Turin has always been a place of great spiritual and magical ferment," says Gaudita Dembech, a journalist and author of the book "Torino: Clita Magica" (Turin: Magic City). "It has some of the qualities of places like Makkah, occupied Jerusalem and Lourdes."

The city first attracted widespread notoriety as a devil's playground four years ago when Turin's archbishop at the time, Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, appointed six official exorcists.

Exorcism, the process of casting out demons, is an accepted practice in the Roman Catholic church. Pope John Paul II has frequently stated that the devil is a pervasive reality in today's world.

The naming of the six exorcists in Turin followed a directive from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican's congregation for the doctrine of the faith, for churches to exercise greater control over exorcisms.

"Unfortunately some of our priests had gone a little too far and were performing exorcisms too hastily," says Canon Giuseppe Ruata, who heads Turin's pool of official exorcists. "Two events in 1988 further contributed to the city's satanic image."

First, the pope spoke of the devil during a visit to Turin, saying: "From the history of salvation, we know that where there are saints there is also another person who presents himself not by his name but by the name of others. He is called the prince of this world, the demon."

Then, a month later, Turin hosted a weeklong conference on demonology that bitterly divided local politicians, churchmen and academics.

Church officials deny Turin has a greater problem with the devil than any other city, pointing out that Milan tops Italy with eight exorcists of its own. Milan has a population of 1.5 million, compared with Turin's 1 million.

"Turin has an image it doesn't deserve," Ruata, 74, said in an interview at the archdiocese's offices. "I wouldn't make Turin out to be the capital of the demonic empire."

Most agree, however, that Turin has an unusually high number of magicians, seers, faith healers, mind readers, astrologers and others dabbling in superstition and witchcraft. They advertise continuously on private television and radio.

Marianini, 71, says several young girls found murdered in the countryside south of Turin in recent years have born signs of ritual sacrifice. "The girls were killed by sword or dagger, their money and jewelry were untouched and there was no sexual assault," he says.

Marianini says he's seen basement temples used for black masses.

Military industry girds for deep cuts

WASHINGTON, June 10, (Reuters) — A mighty US military industrial complex, swollen by \$3 trillion in government spending since 1980, now faces painful retrenching with the Pentagon's agreement to plan a 25 per cent force cut by 1996.

The 2.1 million-member US armed forces could shrink by at least 600,000 troops, aircraft and ship numbers will go down sharply, arms programmes will be cancelled and many defence firms — especially smaller companies — will die.

"Northrop and the B-2 could be the first chapter in a long book. The peace dividend is going to be a bloody cut," said one industry official, who asked not to be identified.

Even as economic and military analysts wait to see if Congress will curtail or kill Northrop Corporation's B-2 "Stealth" bomber programme, the Pentagon is planning seminars to counsel military personnel who will be mustered out against their will.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on Wednesday promised Congress figures and strategy for a 25 per cent cut over the next five years. That concession came despite his repeated warning that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's push for Soviet military cuts is on shaky political ground.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams cautioned reporters on Thursday that Cheney's force plan did not mean Pentagon spending would be cut from a current \$303 billion.

But analysts who watch forces and budgets closely say the end of the cold war could shrink the military cheque book to \$240 billion by 1996, its lowest point as a percentage of gross domestic product since 1947.

"The navy will probably go down about 50 ships to about 480, including 12 aircraft carriers instead of the current 14," said Jim Blackwell of the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

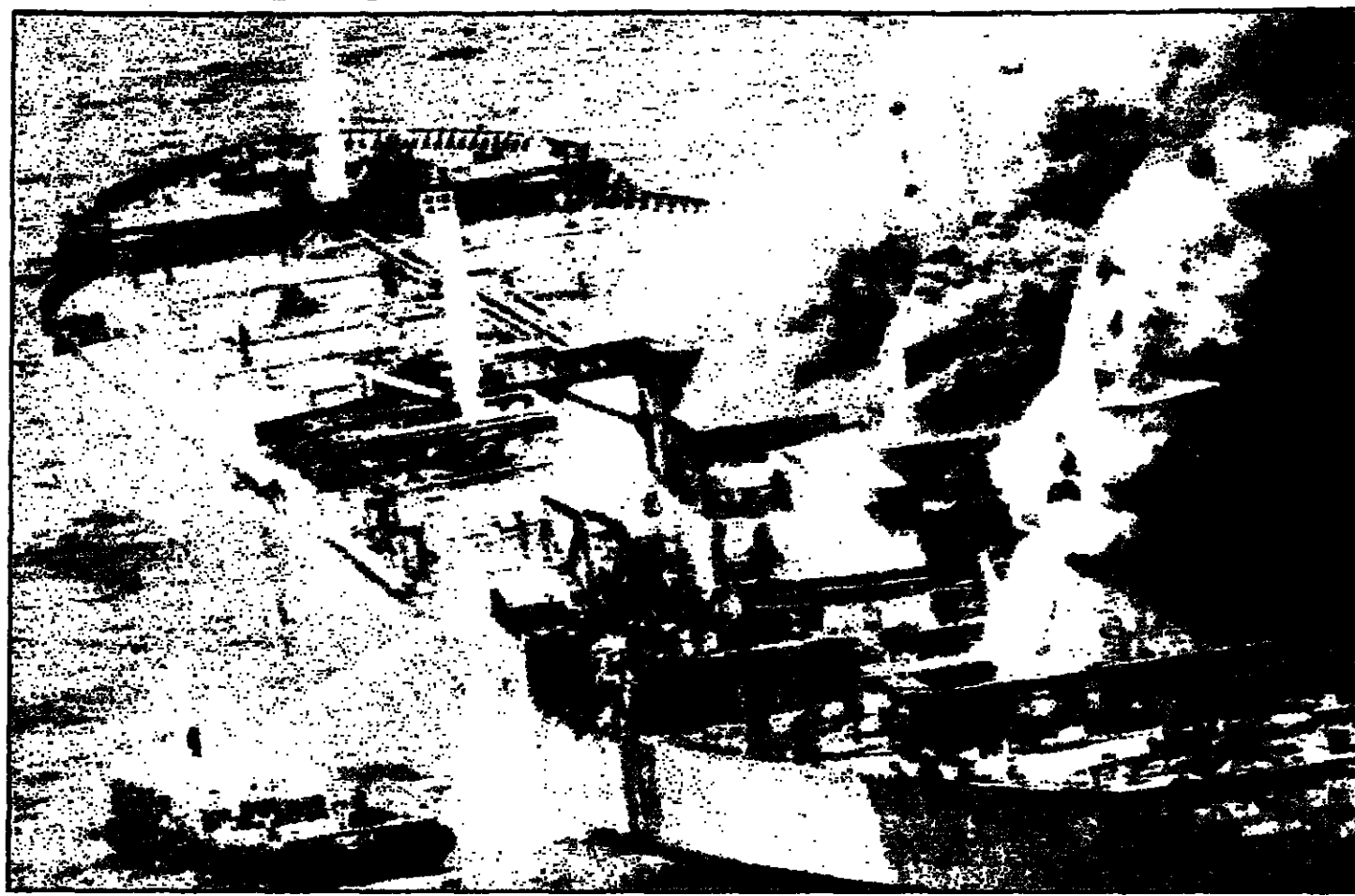
The air force is planning to cut at least 430 fighters and other tactical aircraft — six wings out of the current 36 — in five years. But that will probably go lower, said Barry Blockman of the Johns Hopkins foreign policy institute.

Blockman said cuts in military aircraft and delays in such programmes as the air force advanced tactical fighter and the navy's advanced tactical aircraft could slash earnings for such aerospace firms as McDonnell Douglas, General Dynamics and others.

"You saw what happened to Temco's military account as the navy started winding down the Los Angeles class submarine programme and other work," said one industry source. "A lot more of that kind of thing is coming."

Temco Inc., which owns Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydocking Co., plummeted from being the United States' fourth biggest defence contractor with \$5 billion in defence work in 1988 to 21st on the list last with with \$915.9 million.

Experts say many bigger defence firms, which make products in the civilian areas, will survive deep defence cuts. Boeing Co., with a big backlog of civilian airliner orders, is a key example.



Fire-fighting boats spray water on the aft end of the Mega Borg June 9, trying to contain fire in the engine area. (Reuters wirephoto)

New explosions raise fears of oil spill

Blasts rock crippled Norwegian tanker

GALVESTON, Texas, June 10, (Reuters) — The threat of a major oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico increased after two new explosions rocked a crippled oil tanker burning out of control yesterday, US coast guard officials said.

Vessels equipped with fire-fighting and clean-up equipment were being rushed to the Norwegian supermarket Mega Borg in hopes of avoiding what could become a catastrophic spill.

The giant ship, anchored 57 miles (91 km) southeast of this coastal city, was first hit by an explosion early on yesterday.

With 38 million gallons (150 million litres) of crude oil in its cargo tanks, officials are concerned that the fire on board could rupture the tanks, sending oil gushing into the Gulf.

While rescue vessels sprayed the ship to try to keep its tanks cool, two smaller explosions ripped through the vessels yesterday afternoon, shaking the coast guard's confidence about its ability to prevent a major spill.

Coast guard Captain Thomas Greene said

the explosions did no visible damage to the ship's hull, but that the flow of oil from the craft accelerated after the blasts.

Greene estimated that as much as 17,000 gallons (68,000 litres) of oil had already leaked. A slick 11 miles (17.6 km) long was floating in the Gulf earlier, but Greene said natural evaporation and the movement of the sea had dissipated it.

Greene said another slick four miles (6.4 km) long was headed towards the Texas coast but currents were expected to keep it offshore.

Two men died in the initial explosion and two others are missing, the coast guard said. Thirty-five crew members, 17 of whom sustained minor injuries, abandoned ship and were rescued.

The first explosions occurred while crude oil was being offloaded from the 875-foot (266-metre) Mega Borg to the Italian tanker Framura, Greene said.

The ships were involved in what is called a "lightering" operation in which oil is moved from a supertanker to a smaller ship so that it

can be transported elsewhere.

The 141,000-tonne Mega Borg, owned by Hafslund Transport A/S, was being lightered so that it could go up the shallow Houston ship channel to unload its oil in the Atlantic Richfield Co Pipeline, Greene said.

The coast guard's Atlantic Coast strike team has been flown to Galveston and is ready to act if the spill worsens, Greene said. He said the cause of the explosion aboard the 15-year-old vessel was still not known.

By comparison, in the worst oil spill in US history, the Exxon Valdez dumped 11 million gallons (44 million litres) when it ran into a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989.

From a helicopter above the scene, heat from the blaze was intense and could be felt several feet (metre) above the burning ship. The air smelled of burning fuel.

Three streams of water from a pair of fireboats appeared to have little effect on the inferno. Two coast guard cutters cruised nearby. A motorised rubber boat patrolled near the bow of the burning ship.

America begins Liberia exodus

MONROVIA, Liberia, June 10, (AP) — A US-chartered jet began evacuating Americans from this war-shattered West African nation today, a day after the government and rebels agreed to begin peace talks without an official ceasefire.

"We'll probably lose everything, everything, to looters," said Caroline Jackson, who was returning to Atlanta with her husband, a diamond miner who was still wearing his blue hard hat.

The evacuation began this morning with the departure of a jet carrying 120 people. Two other evacuation flights were scheduled.

The United States chartered an Air Guinea Boeing 737 to carry evacuating Americans from Monrovia to Abidjan, capital of neighbouring Ivory Coast. There the Americans were to board a jumbo jet chartered to fly them to Charleston, South Carolina.

Most of the more than 300 Americans likely to take one of the three flights were women or children. Many were Liberians holding US passports, and roughly a third of those leaving were escorts assigned to aid children on the flights.

The Americans boarded the jet at Monrovia's small city airport. The international airport has been closed for more than a week because of fighting between rebels and government forces.

"It is better if she leaves. If I have to run for my life I can't run with her," said Rosalind Towse as she put her 3-year-old daughter, Zanwhea, on the plane.

More than 1,000 Americans were expected to remain in the West African country. An estimated 6,000 lived in Liberia before it was engulfed in a tribal war. Several thousand left as the 5-month-old war intensified.

The first negotiations between President Samuel Doe's government and rebels led by Charles Taylor were to begin tomorrow at the US embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Liberia's western neighbour.

Though the rebels have refused to accept a church call for a ceasefire, their decision to send a delegation to the Freetown marks a major change in their position. They had been demanding Doe leave Liberia before they would begin talks.

The rebels accuse Doe's administration of corruption, economic mismanagement and human rights abuses. Doe seized power in a bloody coup in 1980.

Pope John Paul II appealed today for peace in Liberia.

"The Pope asked pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square to 'implore God to bring peace to Liberia which has been suffering a bloody civil war since last December.'"

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Maiziere visits New York

Historic encounter with Bush today

NEW YORK, June 10, (AP) — East Germany's prime minister arrived here yesterday, preparing to meet with Jewish and other religious leaders prior to an historic encounter with US President George Bush in Washington.

Lothar de Maiziere was headed for talks tomorrow with Bush, the first White House meeting between an East German prime minister and a US president.

The East German leader arrived shortly after noon (1600 GMT) yesterday at John F. Kennedy International Airport and headed to a meeting with Hans-Otto Brautegam, West Germany's ambassador to the United Nations.

De Maiziere's schedule yesterday also included a meeting with Cardinal John O'Connor, spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic archdiocese in New York City.

He planned today to meet with leaders of the conference on Jewish material claims, an organisation

seeking compensation for Jewish victims of the Holocaust, said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

Steinberg said the East German would meet privately with the Jewish activists at the home of activist Edgar Bronfman and later attend a private dinner with about 25 Jewish leaders.

East German compensation for Jewish deaths in the World War II Holocaust could reach into the billions of dollars, but might be limited by that country's financial problems.

East Germany, which deposed nearly 45 years of Communist rule in the country's first free elections last March, is in the process of reunification with West Germany.

The economic union of the two countries is scheduled to be completed by July with West Germany expected to assume many of its financially strapped neighbour's liabilities.



Demonstration

Members of the Scaled Knot Society of Cavaliers and Roundheads leave the Houses of Parliament in London to demonstrate outside Number 10 Downing Street at the proposed use of their battlefield to build a motorway. (Reuters wirephoto)

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Americas

Barry may not run: Mayor Marion Barry has determined that running for a fourth term would help the defense in his cocaine and perjury case, a published report said today.

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified sources close to the mayor, said Barry may take himself out of the running as early as Monday. The report said the mayor's lawyers hope that such an announcement would improve their leverage in seeking a plea bargain.

A Barry announcement that he will not run for another term would likely lead to even more visible efforts by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, an longtime associate and friend of Barry's, to promote a plea agreement between the mayor and US attorney Jay Stephens, the newspaper reported. (UPI)

Iran-Contra verdict today: The worst scandal of Ronald Reagan presidency finally winds down tomorrow in a courtroom where disgraced White House aide John Poindexter will be sentenced for crimes stemming from the Iran-Contra affair. Poindexter, the seventh person to face sentence in a scandal involving sales of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaragua's Contra rebels, faces penalties of up to 25 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines.

First offenders like Poindexter rarely get the maximum penalty. But even one day in prison would make the retired admiral the only Iran-Contra defendant to spend time behind bars. (Reuters)

Defendant's escape attempt: One of two brothers charged with killing their wealthy parents apparently tried to escape, officials said after finding his leg chain was nearly severed.

A Los Angeles county sheriff's deputy noticed the link of Lyle Menendez's leg chain was nearly cut through while he was unlocking the defendant's manacles for Friday's court appearance, said sheriff's Sgt Robert Stoneman.

"It was cut to the point where just slight pressure or twisting would have broken the link," Stoneman said.

"We subsequently found in a search of their jail cells, handwritten documents that we seized that may be of evidentiary value concerning this escape attempt," Stoneman added. No charges were immediately filed. (AP)

Plane encounters severe turbulence: Eleven people, including two flight attendants, were injured Saturday when an Air Jamaica flight encountered severe turbulence over Mexico on its way to Los Angeles, officials said.

Europe

Oldest man dies: The world's oldest man, 112-year-old Welshman John Evans, who worked as a miner for 60 years, died on Sunday, his family said. He was declared the world's oldest man by the Guinness Book of Records last December.

"John went very peacefully, in his chair beside his bed. He had been a little unwell for a few days," his daughter-in-law Betty Evans said.

Evans was born in 1877, 24 years before the death of Queen Victoria, and began working in South Wales mines at the age of 13. He was forced to retire when he was 73.

He made medical history when at 108 he became the oldest person to be fitted with a heart pacemaker.

His stock answer to secret of his longevity was: "No alcohol, no tobacco, no cursing and no gambling." (Reuters)

Water poisoning: A "secret report" suggested some victims of water poisoning in Camelford, Cornwall, south west England, might have suffered permanent health damage and doctors want to test children for intellectual impairment, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper said the findings contradict those of a British government-sponsored study which concluded that the 20,000 people who drank aluminium-contaminated water two years ago suffered no permanent harm.

The Observer obtained the confidential draft to be published later this year, which contradicts the study. (Kuna)

Computer doctor: A leading British university is developing a computer doctor to help save lives in under-developed countries, it was reported here Sunday.

The London University is leading the £2.3 million project, funded by the medical research group, Wellcome Trust, as the largest-ever investment in medical education technology to originate in the UK, the British media said.

Its aim is to update the world-famous Wellcome Museum of Medical Science to a video-centre computer system which can be used in medical centres worldwide. It will contain tens of thousands of pictures relevant to tropical problems. (Kuna)

Nazi war criminals: The British government is ready to abandon efforts to push through a law allowing the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals, a British Sunday newspaper reported.

The government suffered an embarrassing setback on Tuesday when the upper house of parliament threw out an attempt to change the law to cover suspects who were not British when their alleged offences were committed during World War Two.

In a rare rejection of government policy, the non-elected House of Lords voted by nearly three to one against the War Crimes Bill, which had already been backed by the elected lower house. (Reuters)

Mitterrand visit: President Francois Mitterrand starts on Monday a five-day state visit in four Indian Ocean islands, the Seychelles, Mauritius, the Comoros and Madagascar.

This visit is the first in these islands, three of them former French colonies and all of them French-speaking, by a French president since they became independent.

Talks between President Mitterrand and the islands' leaders, President France-Albert Rene of the Seychelles, Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius, President Said Mohamed Jibril of the Comoros and President Didier Ratsiraka of Madagascar, are expected to centre mainly on North-South co-operation and bilateral relations. (Kuna)

Module docks: A module carrying food and water for two Soviet cosmonauts successfully docked with the space station Mir on Sunday, the official Tass news agency said.

An attempt on Wednesday failed when a computer automatically shut down the docking manoeuvre about two hours ahead of schedule.



Drumming up support

A member of the Young Pioneers drums up support for the upcoming Asian Games during a citywide campaign to encourage residents to support the efforts June 10 in Beijing. The games which will be held in Beijing in September have become the government's focal point in an attempt to show the world that China is again stable after last year's turmoil. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asia/Africa

Japan's senate: The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) hung on to its senate seat in a by-election in the southern city of Fukuoka on Sunday, denying the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) control of the upper house of parliament.

National television NHK said 64-year-old Shigeko Mieno had beaten Norihiko Sumiyoshi, 43, who failed to capitalise on the popularity of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

A recent poll showed Kaifu had the support of 63 per cent of the people, the highest figure since polling began in 1964.

The seat was important to the LDP which has majority in the powerful lower house of parliament but, in a major upset, lost control of the upper house last June for the first time in post-war party history.

The LDP has 110 seats in the Senate, 16 short of a majority. But with the Fukuoka seat it could have formed a working majority with smaller parties and independents.

The by-election was called after the death of the sitting JSP Senator. (Reuters)

Japan will co-operate: Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu said Sunday that Japan will co-operate with the Soviet Union and will maintain the armament to its minimum.

He told journalists that his country will assist the Soviet Union in its reforms and to support its economy.

Regarding armament Kaifu reaffirmed his country's policy to be moderate in obtaining arms, which are to be used to protect its security, according to the government's decision of 1976.

At that year the Japanese government headed by late Premier Takyu Miki had endorsed a national defence programme according to which Japan decided not to be a military superpower.

Kaifu said the Japanese security council will meet next week to discuss the moves toward détente in Asia. (Kuna)

Freighter sinks: A Panamanian-registered freighter sank off China's coast after colliding with another ship, but all 18 crew members were rescued, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

One of the ships leaked oil that has spread over an 18 by 70 km (11 by 43-mile) swath of the Bohai Gulf near the northeastern port of Dalian, the report said.

It said steps were being taken to bring the spill under control, but did not elaborate.

The Panamanian-registered Maysa 8 and the Liberia-registered Spring Falcon collided at 2:42 am Friday (1742 GMT Thursday), sinking the Maysa 8. (AP)

Block disposal deal: A concrete block disposal deal conducted by Japanese and Philippine firms has prompted the Health and Welfare ministry to worry that it could draw international criticism, the national daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported Sunday.

Latin America

Mexico seizes cocaine: Mexican authorities seized 2.5 tonnes of cocaine and four small planes that had ferried the drugs from South America, the Attorney General's Office said on Saturday.

Federal police patrolling the northern state of Chihuahua by air spotted the cocaine-laden planes early on Friday, the Attorney General's Office said in a statement.

Mexican agents have seized more than 58 tonnes of cocaine, most of it bound for the US market, since President Carlos Salinas de Gortari took office in December 1988, the statement said.

The Attorney General's Office gave no street value for Friday's seizure but said the cocaine would have produced 35 million illegal drug doses if it had reached consumers. (Reuters)

Harelip surgery breakthrough: A Mexican plastic surgeon says he has developed a way to repair harelips in foetuses that leaves no scar on the skin.

Fernando Ortiz Monasterio says he practiced the technique on rats and primates and is confident he could "start operating tomorrow morning" on humans.

The procedure involves suturing the cleft lip during pregnancy and relying on the regenerative capacity of the embryonic tissue to heal without scars, he said.

Ortiz, who is affiliated with the Gea Gonzalez Hospital of Mexico City, discussed the operation here this week during the 25th anniversary commemorative meeting of the La Paz plastic surgery hospital.

Film on 1987 bombing of KAL jet opens

SEOUL, June 10, (AP): The 1987 mid-air bombing of a South Korean airliner by alleged North Korean agents is creating a new controversy as a feature film depicting the tragic incident was shown to the general viewers yesterday.

The \$2 million US film, titled "Virgin Terrorist" in English and "Mayumi" in Korean, was shown at a downtown Seoul movie house, following a highly publicised premiere attended by 1,200 people, including six cabinet ministers.

About 1,500 people saw the movie on

the opening day, paying 4,000 won (\$5.70) each, publicists said.

Supporters and fans praised the movie, made by a maverick South Korean filmmaker once abducted to North Korea, as "an artistic coup." Critics called it "cheap anti-communist propaganda."

"We have strong doubt about a plan by our company to sign a 100 million won (\$142,000) contract to show the cheap anti-communist movie," said Lee Woo-Ho, a leader of the Moonhwa Broadcasting Co. the nation's second largest telev-

ision network.

Lee said his union will fight to block the contract.

The movie, directed by Shin Sang-ok, is a documentary-style film featuring a self-confessed North Korean female agent who, also with a male companion, bombed South Korean plane near Burma, killing all 115 people on board.

The woman agent, Kim Hyun-Hui, 27, publicly said she blew up the plane on orders from North Korean leaders to scare

foreign athletes and officials away from the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. North Korea denied the charges.

Ms Kim and her male companion, travelling on forged Japanese passports, were among the passengers of the ill-fated South Korean plane. They got off the plane in Abu Dhabi, leaving a time bomb on the plane, which continued its flight and disappeared near Burma's Andaman Sea.

The couple went to Bahrain where they swallowed cyanide-tipped cigarettes when stopped by airport officials.

Burmese still face horror of jail, torture

RANGOON, June 10, (Reuters): The smartly dressed Burmese woman ignored the monsoon rain bouncing off the thatched roof into her hair and wrung her hands in despair.

Soldiers with guns took her husband, an election candidate, in the early hours of the eve of the poll and she has had no news of him since.

"I feel so helpless and insecure. I haven't heard anything," the 50-year-old former university lecturer said.

Burma, one of Asia's poorest and most secretive countries, is still locked in the twilight world of army rule despite the opposition's overwhelming victory in last month's elections.

As opposition leaders manoeuvre for a peaceful transfer of power, the horror of two years of passive resistance to military control remains.

Curfew

The jails are still full of political prisoners. A six-hour curfew is still in force. Citizens are still hauled in for questioning. Student groups are still compiling lists of more than 1,000 comrades who died or disappeared during the army's brutal crushing of protest in 1988.

Added to the daily drudge of scratching an income, every civilian must live in fear of being snatched from home, video-parlour or tea-shop by the military.

In late April up to 1,000 youths were rounded up in broad daylight in eastern Shan state and shipped off as army porters to insurgent zones in Kayah state, a diplomat said.

Burmese themselves recount experiences of arbitrary detention, beating and torture. Relatives say family members have simply disappeared.

Human-rights groups and diplomats say thousands of dissidents are still in jail. Some have been sentenced for up to 20 years or death, others have not been charged.

Their alleged crimes range from "endangering the state" to duplicating photographs of opposition heroine Aung San Suu Kyi, herself under house arrest for the past 11 months.

Packed

Visitors and former inmates of Insein jail, Burma's largest and most feared prison, say it is packed with leaders, members, candidates and supporters of the election winners, the National League for Democracy.

One recent visitor said there were more than 1,000 political prisoners in the jail. The visitor, who asked not to be identified said they included five senior Democracy League members including party chairman Tin Oo, sentenced last December to three years hard labour.

While prominent dissidents are spared physical maltreatment, students and other inmates say they themselves were tortured as a matter of routine. They claim some victims died.

Kyat Koe, 20, a student from Rangoon's Dagon township, said on his first day in prison he was blindfolded and beaten by several people. The next day they used a candle to burn his genitals and pressed lit cigarettes against his inner thigh.

His legs are dotted with scars. Student leaders said Kyaw Myo Thant, a representative of the legal Democratic Party for a New Society in the Irrawaddy division, died in Ma-Ubin jail hospital from internal injuries five days before the elections.

Thant, a history major at Rangoon University in his early 20s, had been in jail three months and was admitted to the hospital after coughing up blood. His parents said his hands and legs remained chained until his death.

Officials declined to confirm the details of the case.

Radicals battle police

Death squads formed to kidnap US envoy in Seoul

SEOUL, June 10, (Agencies): Thousands of militant students staged violent anti-government protests today and radicals said "death squads" had been formed to kidnap the US ambassador.

About 9,000 students wielding firebombs and rocks clashed with police in Seoul and six other cities today to mark the anniversary of 1987 anti-government protests that brought widespread democratic reform.

"Drive out US troops," screamed radicals hurling firebombs at police. "Overthrow (President) Roh Tae-Woo."

Three students wrapped in South Korean flags were arrested today about 100 metres (yards) from the cultural centre as they scattered anti-US leaflets, said Yonhap.

"Shut down US cultural centre," hundreds of students and dissidents chanted in running street protests in downtown Kwangju, after fighting police with firebombs on two campuses, Yonhap said.

Gregg was scheduled to fly tomorrow to Kwangju, 250 kilometres (156 miles) south of Seoul, to reopen the centre at a new location. It was closed a year ago to protect staff members after radicals attacked it with rocks and firebombs 29 times in 10 years.

Anti-American sentiment is particularly strong in Kwangju, where citizens claim Washington condoned the military suppression of a 1980 civil uprising against the martial law government. Some 200 civilians were killed and at least 1,700 injured, by official count.

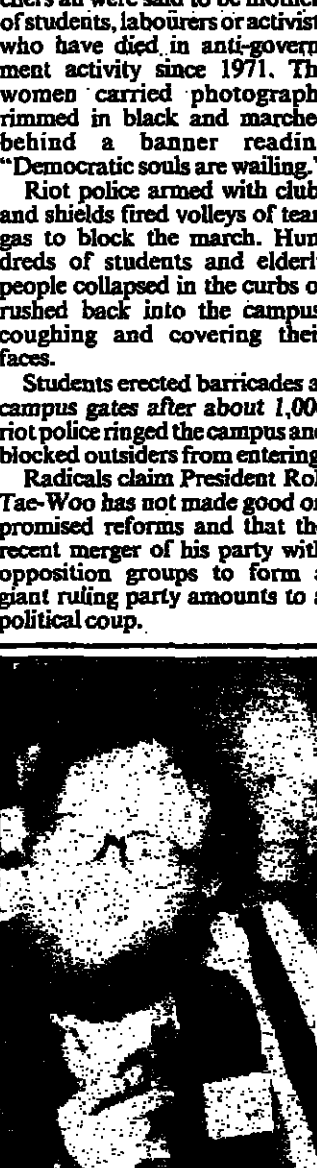
About 50 women dressed in white mourning robes led a march of 1,000 radicals who clashed with riot police on streets outside Sungkyunkwan University in central Seoul.

"My child, My child," wailed one woman. The women marchers all were said to be mothers of students, labourers or activists who have died in anti-government activity since 1971.

The women carried photographs rimmed in black and marched behind a banner reading "Democratic souls are waiting."

Riot police armed with clubs and shields fired volleys of tear gas to block the march. Hundreds of students and elderly people collapsed in the curbs or rushed back into the campus, coughing and covering their faces.

Students erected barricades at campus gates after about 1,000 riot police ringed the campus and blocked outsiders from entering. Radicals claim President Roh Tae-Woo has not made good on promised reforms and that the recent merger of his party with opposition groups to form a giant ruling party amounts to a political coup.



New leader

The East German Social Democratic Party at a convention in Halle elected Wolfgang Thierse (above) its new chairman.

He replaced Ibrahim Boethme, who resigned in March after the West German news magazine Der Spiegel said he had co-operated with the Stasi, the now dissolved secret police.

Boethme denied the charge, but resigned to avoid enlarging the party in a controversy.

Thierse, 46, got 271 votes of the 414 votes cast. (Reuters wirephoto)

Joint elections plan

Germans to discuss proposal

BONN, June 10, (AP): West Germany plans to suggest to East Germany that their governments be joined as early as this December, a top West German official reportedly said today.

Rudolf Seiters, chief of staff for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said "problems (of unification) would be more easily solved by a joint government and by a joint parliament."

Seiters said Kohl's government will be speaking with the East German government about holding joint elections as early as Dec 2 or Dec 16, the radio reported.

The two Germanys already plan to merge their economies on July 2, creating a single economic entity under two governments.

Norddeutscher Rundfunk quoted Seiters as saying "it would be good for Germans in the GDR (East Germany) and in the Federal Republic (West Germany) if there were joint German elections soon."

Several weeks ago Kohl hinted that he favours replacing the scheduled Dec 20 federal elec-

tions with an all-German vote.

However, there had been no firm indications since that this could happen.

The renewed push for early all-German elections comes amid West German optimism about efforts to persuade the Soviet Union to accept the idea of NATO membership for a united Germany.

Kohl, after returning from talks in Washington with US President George Bush, said yesterday he thinks that problem can be solved this year, as he had originally hoped.

A July summit in London of leaders from NATO's 16 members will consider reviewing strategy to lessen its perceived threat to Moscow. Kohl told a newspaper today the summit's task would be "to define more clearly the alliance's future political role."

The Soviet Union has balked at NATO membership for a unified Germany, suggesting either neutrality or membership in both NATO and the Warsaw Pact under a new security system.

Meanwhile, West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher was preparing to travel to Brest in the Soviet Union for further talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze tomorrow on Soviet concerns.

The United States — in close consultation with West Germany — has proposed a nine-point programme aimed at winning full Soviet approval of German unification.

The programme includes intensified economic co-operation with the Soviets and assurances their security will not be endangered.

Der Spiegel, the West German news magazine, reported yesterday the Soviets have demanded \$20 billion in Western aid in exchange for its blessing of NATO membership for a united Germany.

West German officials have not confirmed the report, saying only talks are continuing with the Soviets about closer economic ties.

In a statement released by his office today, Genscher said, "we Germans desire that the Soviet Union can also sense gains from German unification."

Relations improve

Mistrust of Moscow eases

JAKARTA, Indonesia, June 10, (AP): When the Soviet airline Aeroflot resumes service to Indonesia next month, it will be the latest milestone in improved relations between Moscow and south east Asian nations.

Flights between Moscow and Jakarta were stopped in 1982 after two Soviet diplomats and the head of the local Aeroflot office were expelled on espionage charges.

Soviet relations with much of the region were equally sour in those days. Malaysia ousted three Soviet diplomats in 1981 after they were accused of espionage. A year later, Singapore expelled a Soviet diplomat and a shipyard technician as spies.

Soviet warships and planes ranged from old US bases in Vietnam and Moscow's military aid sustained Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

Nor did it help that Soviet troops were fighting in Afghanistan and posted along the border with China. And relations with Japan were strained because the Soviets still held onto the Kurile Islands which they took late in World War II.

Suspensions remained even after July 1986 speech by President Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok in which he promised that the Kremlin would mend its ways in the region.

The reaction from then Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumatmadja was typical. "It is a good beginning but there is a long way to go."

Events since have swept away old perceptions of the Soviet Union.

In announcing a policy shift last month, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar told

the International Affairs Forum in Kuala Lumpur that Gorbachev's reforms turned Moscow's presence in the region from "offensive" to not particularly threatening.

Withdrawal from Afghanistan and diplomatic efforts to solve the Cambodian conflict encouraged some. The promise that the Soviet military presence in Vietnam would be wound down was particularly welcomed.

The Soviet Union's most recent rapprochement with Asia came early this week when Gorbachev met with South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo in San Francisco.

Afterward, Roh told reporters the two countries would establish diplomatic ties, but Gorbachev was vague on the matter.

"The Soviets are already in the process of unilaterally drawing down their offensive capabilities in Danang and Can Ranh Bay," Abu Hassan said.

"My assessment is that the Soviet Union will now be more inward looking and will require a peaceful and stable international environment to pursue reform and economic development at home," he said.

Diplomatic analysts said most of the change of perception came in the last six months, as Gorbachev did not intervene while communist regimes fell in eastern Europe.

While the political image of the Soviet Union has improved dramatically, its quest for greater trade and investment has been less successful.

Japan and the United States dominate commerce in the Pacific basin.

Film on Bangkok tarnishes Thailand's image on eve of Chatichai's US visit

BANGKOK, June 10, (Reuters): Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan visits the United States next week at a time when sex, drugs and even rock 'n' roll have cast a shadow over traditionally strong ties between the two.

Thais have been offended by a documentary shown on US television last week that depicted Bangkok as the sex capital of the world and that said child prostitution was rife.

Government spokesman Suvit Yod-

mance said the programme had badly tarnished Thailand's image on the eve of Chatichai's US visit.

The premier has tried to play down the controversy, saying prostitution used to flourish in France and Japan but dwindled as their economies developed.

"It is quite normal because Thai women are pretty," he said.

The issue is unlikely to seriously affect a relationship based on the Washington's long support for Thailand as a bulwark

against communist Indo-China.

More real problems are the flow of heroin to the United States via Thailand and the manufacture of pirated pop music cassettes and films that are depriving the US entertainment industry of big profits.

US anti-narcotics officials say almost half the heroin reaching the United States comes from the "golden triangle." A bumper opium crop was harvested in the Thai, Burmese and Laotian border area this

year, most of it in Burma.

Korn Dabbaransi, the government official in charge of drug suppression, said Thailand had effectively curbed opium production but will nevertheless ask the United States for more money to finance the drugs war.

As a goodwill gesture before the visit, the government agreed to dismiss police Major-General Veth Pethborom, indicted in the United States for his alleged role in heroin trafficking.

Unrest mounts in Kirghizia, toll 115

Yeltsin presents alternative economic plan

MOSCOW, June 10, (Agencies): Police in Kirghizia's capital broke up attempts to organise anti-government rallies today following a week of ethnic clashes in the central Asian republic that have killed 115 people, officials said.

The border city of Osh in western Kirghizia, where fighting between ethnic Kirghiz and Uzbeks broke out last weekend in a land dispute, was reported calm today.

Armoured personnel carriers sat at each intersection and Interior Ministry troops patrolled the streets, said Rauf Dusev, duty officer at

the Osh Communist Party offices, speaking by telephone.

Unrest continued as of yesterday in regions around Osh, however, with "passions still running high," according to today's editions of the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda.

In Frunze, the capital of Kirghizia 325 kilometres (195 miles) north of Osh, 11 students who threw stones at a police patrol from a dormitory window overnight were beaten by truncheon-wielding officers, said Ivan Pavlov, a party official in the capital. There were no serious injuries, and no one was detained in the incident, he said.

Bulgaria holds first free elections

SOFIA, June 10, (AP): Bulgarians lined up to cast votes today in the country's first free elections in 58 years, monitored by thousands of local and foreign observers.

The parliamentary vote pitted the leadership of the old Communist Party, against an opposition coalition that wants a swift move to a Western-style market economy.

Voting was brisk immediately after the polls opened at 7 am (0400 GMT). Polling among the 6.4 million electorate was to close at 6 pm (1500 GMT), but could be kept open an extra hour if necessary.

The official vote count was to begin after the polls closed, but no official results were expected before tomorrow.

In Sofia, the capital, and its suburbs, people could be seen lining up in front of polling places half an hour before they opened and crowding the doors well into the morning.

Officials said that by 11 am (0800 GMT) 40 per cent of the ballots had been cast.

In the village of Aldimirovsi near Sofia an old farmer who was uncertain of the procedure wanted his wife to accompany him into the voting booth, but he was told this was prohibited.

Officially released pre-election surveys strongly favoured the socialists. The main opposition alliance, the Union of Democratic Forces, denounced the polls and predicted outright victory.

Socialist Premier Andrei Lukashov told the British Broadcasting Corp. before casting his vote in Sofia that he was confident the socialists would win the largest proportion of votes.

President Petar Mladenov told reporters that he was "voting for the future of Bulgaria, ... for democracy."

Thirty-eight political parties and alliances were contesting 400 seats in a unicameral grand national assembly. The legislature will be charged with writing a new constitution to usher in democratic and economic reforms.

Only about half a dozen of the parties were expected to win seats. The state news agency BTA said that 3,143 candidates were competing for them.

The top challengers include the 16-party UDF, the chief advocate of rapid economic reform.

Another is the Agrarian Party, a docile ally of the Communist Party under its strongman Todor Zhivkov until his ouster in November 1989.

Urban ruled out dealing with the communists, who should end up as one of only two other major groupings in Parliament, and the separatist Slovak Nationalist Party which could win around 10 seats.

The communist vote held up strongly, according to the projections which gave it almost 13 per cent of the nationwide vote and 44 seats in the federal assembly.

The other significant grouping would be the three-party Christian Democratic Union (CDU), but its forecast showing of 12 per cent and 45 seats was disappointing compared with polls that had predicted 15 per cent or more.

One of the three CDU members, the People's Party, was in disarray over accusations that its leader Josef Bartoncik was a paid secret police informer under the communists.

Students trying to organise rallies in Frunze's main square were turned back by Interior Ministry troops and police, Pavlov said by telephone.

Boris Yeltsin has staked out his territory as new Russian President, offering an alternative to the Kremlin's tough economic reform package and threatening to take his case to the people if conservatives block it.

Yeltsin, calm and confident, said his plan for moving towards a market economy differed from that of Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov because it did not place the burden on the backs of hard-pressed workers.

"By using different economic levers we can ensure that people's standards of living do not fall and indeed so should rise in time," he said in a television interview yesterday.

"If there is ever a critical point where understanding cannot be reached, then I will go to the people. I will go to the electorate."

Yeltsin also asked coal miners who have been threatening to strike to show restraint.

Though his economic programme has not been published, reformist economists advising Yeltsin have called for a mass sell-off of state assets instead of the government's proposed steep price increases on food and other goods.

Rallies in Frunze last week turned into demonstrations against the republic's leaders — thousands of students gave them until today to resign — as well as calls for residents to go to Osh and join the battle against the Uzbek population.

Officials from the Communist Party and the government visited students' and workers' dormitories this morning to talk them out of holding the rallies, he said.

Armoured personnel carriers rolled along the main streets of Frunze in districts where trouble had broken out earlier, and all was quiet, Pavlov said.

The bloodshed was the latest ethnic violence to trouble the government of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Pakistan, China sign accord

ISLAMABAD, June 10, (Reuters): Pakistan and China signed an agreement at the weekend for Chinese aid and technology in building tanks and joint development of a main battle tank.

China's North Industrial Corporation agreed to help Pakistan progressively take over the manufacture of Chinese T-69 and T-85-11 tanks and to collaborate in the design of a new tank, a government statement said.

Pakistan rolled out its first locally assembled tank, a modernised version of the Chinese T-69, in March and said then that it would begin full-scale production in December.

It also put on show a locally built armoured recovery vehicle and armoured personnel carrier.

Last year Pakistan abandoned plans to buy the American Abrams Tank, claiming it was unsuitable for the hot, desert conditions where armour battles are likely to be fought in a future war with its traditional foe, India.

India, which is locked in a political tussle with Pakistan over a Muslim uprising in its Jammu and Kashmir state, already makes its own tanks based on Soviet designs.

The Sunday Telegraph reported that the gunman, who sat in the passenger seat, was shot by police and seriously injured.

"Police scientists who examined the terrorists' stolen Mazda 323 ... have concluded that the gunman in the passenger seat was shot in the chest during a car chase through Dortmund," the newspaper said.

It said German police believe the driver was also seriously injured when the car skidded off the road.

German police said one officer was injured after the suspects' car by neighbours, began following the silver Mazda in downtown Dortmund, shortly after the shooting, police said.

The Irish Republican Army later claimed responsibility for the killing.

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Refugees move on

Refugees cross into Kirghizia from Soviet Uzbekistan at a checkpoint manned by Soviet Interior Ministry troops near Osh on Saturday after a spate of ethnic rioting killed more than 115 people in a week. (Reuters wirephoto)

Joint tank manufacture plan

Pakistan, China sign accord

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17 injured in London army HQ blast

IRA believed to have planted bomb: no one claims responsibility

LONDON, June 10, (Reuters): Seventeen people were hurt, one seriously, when a bomb exploded late yesterday at the headquarters of the British army's oldest unit.

The bomb went off during a student's 21st birthday party at the Central London headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, a reserve unit that dates back to the Middle Ages.

The building is often used for private parties and television news reports said all the injured were civilians.

One woman suffered serious throat and face injuries caused by flying glass.

Police said the bomb was planted on the roof of the building and went off without warning. No one claimed responsibility, but police said it was being treated as a terrorist attack.

Residents were evacuated from nearby apartments and police sealed off surrounding streets as explosives experts searched the building for more bombs.

"We were all standing at the bar upstairs when there was a loud bang," a guest at the party said. "People were screaming and shouting. Then they calmed down and some of the older people started helping the injured."

The Honourable Artillery Company, chartered by Henry VIII, is the only remaining link between the modern army and the "trained bands" of medieval England.



Police clear the adjacent area to the Honourable Artillery Company headquarters after the bomb exploded late June 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

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The Honourable Artillery Company, chartered by Henry VIII, is the only remaining link between the modern army and the "trained bands" of medieval England.

The company is the personal bodyguard of the Lord Mayor of London and on ceremonial occasions its members wear 17th century uniforms.

The blast came soon after a series of attacks on army installations and personnel in Britain and continental Europe by the Irish Republican Army, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Last month the IRA planted two bombs at British military bases in London killing one soldier. A week ago a soldier at a railway station in Northern England and a British army officer in West Germany were shot dead.

Armenians mob around Maggie

Visits quake-hit city

LENINAKAN, USSR, June 10, (AP): Tens of thousands of happy Armenians mobbed British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as she arrived today to open a new British-built school in this earthquake-devastated city.

Crowds broke through police lines as Thatcher, on a four-day visit to the Soviet Union, arrived to open the Lord Byron School. The metal-frame, single-story school is in a section of Leninakan that was wiped out in the December 1988 earthquake. The quake killed an estimated 25,000 people in northern Armenia and demolished 31 of Leninakan's 37 schools.

Armenians, some standing atop piles of rubble to get a better view, lined the route of Thatcher's motorcade as it headed to the new school, built on the site where the earthquake virtually flattened a previous school.

"People all over the world joined in relief work, moved by the belief that what you were suffering was more than you could bear," Thatcher said, in opening the school.

"The horror has made a very deep impression on people through the world ... television brought into our homes pictures of devastation and suffering almost beyond comprehension," she said.

Thatcher got out of her limousine as she arrived at the school, but was forced back into it as the crowd surged around her. The limousine then edged around to the deserted rear of the 57-million school, named after the 18th century English poet.

Thatcher was cheered by members of the Ukraine's communist-dominated parliament yesterday but refused to be drawn into the republic's domestic politics.

Thatcher addressed about 80 deputies of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet in a late addition to her programme of sightseeing and open-going in Kiev, capital of the Soviet Union's second largest republic.

She arrived in the domed, marble-walled chamber to a standing ovation, then quickly praised the building as grander and more beautiful than Britain's centuries-old houses of parliament.

Standing beneath a towering statue of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, she declared that current Soviet economic and political reforms were "of a magnitude never before attempted in history."

Then, in an unprecedented move, she took questions from the deputies meeting in special session at the request of opposition members.

Civic Forum seeks consensus

PRAGUE, June 10, (Reuters): The Civic Forum movement looked set today to dominate Czechoslovak politics for at least the next two years but said it preferred to continue tackling the country's problems by consensus.

"We think that the future government will be a coalition," was Forum leader Jan Urban's reaction to projections of a sweeping election victory that would give the Forum up to 170 of the 300 seats in Parliament.

"We realise there are huge problems awaiting this country and therefore we feel that the government should have a strong parliamentary majority."

But the apparent size of the victory immediately raised a new problem for Civic Forum to consider — with many small parties wiped out, who is left as a potential coalition partner?

"There is unfortunately not much of a choice," Urban conceded.

For the past six months Civic Forum has been the major voice in the multi-party "government of national understanding"



Havel looks up from his programme at the beginning of a concert in Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

which has begun radical reforms designed to establish democracy and a market economy in Czechoslovakia.

The new Parliament is elected for just two years during which it

is to see through those reforms and enact a new constitution.

Official results are expected today to confirm a huge vote of confidence in the Forum, rewarding it for leading the overthrow of communist rule late last year.

Urban ruled out dealing with the communists, who should end up as one of only two other major groupings in Parliament, and the separatist Slovak Nationalist Party which could win around 10 seats.

The communist vote held up strongly, according to the projections which gave it almost 13 per cent of the nationwide vote and 44 seats in the federal assembly.

The other significant grouping would be the three-party Christian Democratic Union (CDU), but its forecast showing of 12 per cent and 45 seats was disappointing compared with polls that had predicted 15 per cent or more.

One of the three CDU members, the People's Party, was in disarray over accusations that its leader Josef Bartoncik was a paid secret police informer under the communists.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Irish FM to visit Egypt, Kuwait

Expansion of relations sought

DUBLIN, June 10, (Kuna): Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins is scheduled to visit Egypt and Kuwait in the middle of this month, a senior official at the Irish Foreign Ministry said.

The source said Collins will visit Egypt on June 14 and 15 and then will visit Kuwait until the 17th of June following which he will head for Brussels.

Collins' talks with Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed will deal with Middle

East and the Arab-Israeli conflict related issues, the source said, noting that Kuwaiti-Irish relations are very good and Ireland is keen to further enhance them.

Investments

He added that Collins, who chairs the current ministerial council session of the European Economic Community, will seek expansion of bilateral economic relations and the increase of Irish exports to

Kuwait particularly in the electrical and services fields, hospital management and training.

Ireland and Kuwait will also tackle possibilities of Kuwaiti investment in Dublin, the source said.

On Ireland's role during its chairmanship of the EEC during the past six months, the source said his country tried to help push the Mideast peace process forward, noting that the situation could be better if an Israeli government was available.

He said, Ireland has warned Israeli officials of the perils of increasing Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

The EEC has protested to Israel for closing Arab schools in occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank and for violations of human rights, he added, recalling that Collins conducted a number of visits to the Middle East including one where he met with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Tunisia.

Kuwait says yes to National Council

(Continued from Page 1)

The Amir hinted at such change when he said that the decade of the 90s will witness many qualitative improvements in performance.

Certainly, the mechanism to achieve those goals is the National Council. It will provide the genesis for change, mainly a new generation that has long dreamed of serving the country and was waiting for an appropriate opportunity.

The National Council is in itself the result of a polarization of a new popular will. It will have new faces who are simple, and well-educated. At least half of them are university graduates. They will bring modern ideas to the country's political arena far away from the residue and ambitions of the holders of rusty swords.

These new faces want to serve the majority of the people, ending an era when a minority held the lion's share of power.

The new faces have succeeded in their challenge and, devoid of vested interests, have proved that they have the right to serve their country in the cause of social justice.

Agencies add: Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah praised the smooth flow of the balloting in the National Council elections and said organisation of the elections was "excellent."

The minister, who toured a number of constituencies, told Kuna the turnout was "very encouraging" despite the hot weather earlier in the day.

He said positive response of the public, as manifested in the turnout, testified to the strong bonds that link Kuwaitis as one family and the people's awareness of their national duties toward their leader, His Highness the Amir.

Governors of the capital and the Farwaniya governorate expressed satisfaction with the progress of voting and praised voters for their co-operation and participation.

The capital's Governor Sheikh Jaber Al Abdulla Al Jaber Al Sabah told Kuna turnout at the capital's polling stations was more than satisfactory and, reflected, the public's favourable response to the Amir's degree on establishing the National Council.

He said he was impressed when he toured the capital's polling stations and found voters lined up to cast their votes. Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Ahmed Al Hmoud Al Jaber Al Sabah told Kuna voting in the governorate was smooth as the voters fully co-operated with organisers and adhered strictly to order. He said turnout was satisfactory.

Governor of Hawalli Abdul Latif Mohammed Al Barges said that the turnout was almost double in the evening in some constituencies of Hawalli governorate as compared to the morning hours.

Barges told Kuna that he got this impression from the tour he made of the polling stations.

He lauded the spirit of co-operation that prevailed during the elections and hoped good luck for those who will win in service of their country and in meeting the ambitions of those who elected them so as to continue the dialogue between the leadership and citizens.

Long queues of eligible Kuwaiti voters were seen since morning before polling stations in the country's 25 constituencies.

Chairmen of various electoral committees told Kuna that voters were seen waiting even before opening of the ballot boxes at 8 am local time, (05.00 GMT).

They underlined that security men were present to ensure discipline, which they said was maintained thanks to the awareness of the 62,123 registered voters.

The committees chairmen said that the voters were not deterred by the harsh weather conditions, summer travel preparations and final secondary school examinations.

Voting proceeded normally and voters were co-operating with security men who were deployed to facilitate the operation.

Kuwait Television started broadcast earlier than usual today to screen live coverage of the polling process in various stations which are located in elementary school buildings.

The ballot boxes were closed at 8 pm, local time (17.00 GMT) and counting followed immediately in the same polling stations.

The 348 candidates, of whom 20 are ex-parliament members, are competing for 50 seats in the Interim Council that will further include an additional 25 members to be appointed by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

The four-year national council is to review past parliamentary experience and discuss future

role and functions of the National Assembly, according to the Amir's decree issued on April 23.

The biggest number of candidates is in the 8th constituency, Hawalli, while the greatest number of registered voters is in the 21st constituency, Ahmadi.

Unofficial estimates after the polls closed at 8 pm (1700 GMT) put the turnout at around 55 per cent of eligible voters.

Diplomats said anything more than 40 per cent should be considered a success for the government's plan to set up the interim 75-member National Council, taking into account the summer vacations.

The diplomats, who could not be named under standing rules, also noted it would be difficult to determine how many of the abstentions could be attributed to the opposition camp.

With the end of May, many Kuwaiti families escape the desert country's summer heat to spend summer vacations abroad.

State-run radio and television and pro-government newspapers appealed to people to vote and radios broadcast patriotic songs.

"Do you love Kuwait? An Arabic daily asked readers in a larger-than-normal headline. "Then go to the ballot box and elect your candidate."

Journalists touring centres with Information Ministry officials saw several dozen men, mostly elderly, queuing to cast ballots. Women cannot vote.

Supporters of candidates offered mineral water and fruit juice to men as they entered the centres, where campaign posters covered walls and election vehicles.

"Keep Kuwait clean," read one appeal on the wall of a school turned into a polling centre near Kuwait City. Dozens of campaign posters were plastered elsewhere.

Kuna said the number of voters began to decrease after 9 am because many had to go to work, but was increased again in

the early evening after the lunch-time siesta.

Arab Times staffers Lima Al Khalafawi and Diana Abou Haider add: Young and old Kuwaitis eagerly headed to polling stations since the early morning to elect their future representatives at the Interim National Council. All voters and candidates we spoke to agreed that the National Council and the National Assembly are the two faces of the same coin "Democracy in Kuwait."

"Turnout was much better than all expectations," said Adel Zawawi running for Rawda constituency. Zawawi, who had been busy for the last 48 hours non-stop, said: "From visits to many diwanis I noticed that people began to understand the role of the National Council and the government's point of view."

Zawawi said he distributed 5 thousand video tapes and cassettes in Rawda area. "These included debates I organised explaining the role of this council."

Zawawi added that his main aim is to convey his thoughts and opinion to the people even if he did not win.

"This council is provisional, and we should have positive intentions. This democratic route forming the Interim National Council is our way to the National Assembly."

When asked about the chances of victory he said "The strongest winner is the National Council." Mashhour Nasser of Rawda constituency believes in the necessity of new Kuwaiti faces contesting the elections. "New names have good chances of winning. They are willing to play an important role in serving their country."

Jasser Al Jasser, running for Rawda, and an ex-member of the National Assembly was attending the election process at Rawda constituency. Jasser, once a member of the Group of 32, wished success for other candidates and said that he is proud of the voters' high morale.

Non-oil GNP grows

(Continued from Page 1)

and the eight-year Iraq-Iran war. After discussing the governor's report, government spokesman Rashed Al Rashed told newsmen, the Council of Ministers advised local commercial banks to speed up settlement of debts below KD250,000 (nearly \$860,000) to pave the way for settling debts in excess of KD250,000 according to rules set by the Central Bank and after ascertaining the financial status of indebted persons.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs added that the session also instructed the Central Bank to urge commercial banks to permit borrowers to trade their assets seized as collaterals according to rules laid down by the Central Bank in this respect.

The council also directed its general secretariat to follow up draft laws and regulations relevant to recommendations included in the joint economic report with the aim of completing them at the earliest possible date.

Rashed elaborated that the session also approved a draft law determining remunerations of the interim National Council members and draft amendments in the social security law and discussed a draft budget for the national council and an additional appropriations bill for the Kuwait Airways Corporation.

At the outset of its session, the cabinet approved a sum of KD400,000 (or about \$1.32 million) for the project of establishing an Islamic centre in the African Republic of Niger, in fulfilment of a wish by HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah during his recent tour of a number of African states, he indicated.

The cabinet also heard reports by a number of ministers on meetings they recently attended abroad, Rashed concluded.



Prince Asem received

The Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received at his office Saturday HRH Prince Asem Abu Baker Nayef and the accompanying delegation. The talks between the minister and the Jordanian prince dealt with issues of mutual interest.

Diplomat assassinations

Reveal power behind killings, Riyadh urges

NICOSIA, June 10, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia said yesterday that Thai authorities had established that a foreign power was behind the killing of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok and urged them to reveal who it was.

A Foreign Ministry statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) called on the Thai government to "arrest all those involved in the crime, bring them to justice and disclose the foreign party that stands behind these incidents as soon as possible."

Thai police said in March they had arrested a Thai Muslim suspected of involvement in the murder of three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok on February 1 and

were tracking other suspects.

Another Saudi embassy official was shot dead in Bangkok in January last year, and a Saudi businessman disappeared from the Thai capital days after the killings in February. Nothing has been heard of him since.

SPA, received in Cyprus, quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying the Saudi government had closely followed the Thai investigation into the murders.

"Information provided by the Thai authorities has proven that the security forces were able to identify the assailants and arrest some of them," he said, adding that the information also showed

a foreign power was involved.

Thai police have said the killings were linked either to international terrorism or a dispute over the lucrative business of supplying Thai workers to the Middle East.

The killings were the latest in a series of attacks on Saudi diplomats abroad over the last four years. Western diplomats based in the Gulf have suggested Iran could be involved in at least some of them.

Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic relations with Iran in 1988, citing its "hostile attitude." Iranians on pilgrimage to Makkah in 1987 sparked riots in which about 400 people were killed.

The other issues

(Continued from Page 1)

believes that Kuwaiti investments should be diversified and Shimari will ask for a pardon of all Kuwaiti merchants "imprisoned for financial difficulties beyond their control."

Because a big number of the 348 candidates are young, problems faced by Kuwaiti youth seem to be high on their agenda. Ghoraiba promised voters to take a closer look at delinquency among Kuwaiti youth, and Hajiri will ask that Kuwaiti University students be given the right to join the college of their choice regardless of their grades and the requirements of these colleges. He will also ask for suitable job opportunities for Kuwaiti University graduates.

A number of candidates among them Hussain Abdullah Al Roumi, running for De'ya and Haider Ismael Al Jazaf, running for Dahiyat Abdulla Al Salem stated that the National Council is a good chance for introducing young new faces to Kuwait's political arena.

There were also voices calling for relying on Islam as the sole source of legislation. "Kuwait is an Islamic country and we should not be following French civil laws," said Sadom Hamad Al Otaibi, running for Ahmadi.

All candidates interviewed by Arab Times said that Kuwait's parliamentary experience was wrought with negative aspects that need to be reviewed and corrected.

New C and S loans

THE chairman of the board of directors at the Kuwait Credit and Savings Bank Yousef Al Houti has said that the bank will announce the loans it plans to make available to citizens for renovating their houses.

He told a local daily that the value of the loan is estimated at KD 10,000. The bank will form a joint committee with members of the NHA to determine the number of applicants expected to benefit from these loans.

From the courts

Man gets 10 years RI for killing friend

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a Chinese citizen to ten years in jail with hard labour and ordered him deported after completion of his term in jail for killing a friend.

The court heard that the defendant was playing a traditional Chinese game along with a group of his work-mates on the project site labourers' quarters, but when he lost he picked up an empty bottle of cola and smashed it against the wall.

Parts of the glass fragments injured the victim who happened to pass by at that moment. The victim came up to the defendant and remonstrated with him angrily, and hit him on the face causing eye and nose injuries.

The defendant picked up a knife from a table nearby and stabbed the victim in the chest, and learnt afterwards that the man died in the hospital of his wounds.

Although eye-witness testimonies concluded that both never had any confrontation before the day of the incident, the court took its decision.

THE Criminal Court has acquitted a building janitor from the charge of raping a maid.

The court heard that the maid's employer discovered that her maid was pregnant and learnt from her that the building janitor forced his way into the flat after he knocked the door to get her to fill up a bucket of water to wash the front yard of the building, something which he usually did.

However, on the day of the incident she was surprised when he pushed the door and walked into the flat and forced himself on her which left her pregnant.

The court found the maid's story hard to believe, as she did not ask for help when she could have and she did not bring the matter to her employer's attention except after the discovery of her pregnancy. Besides the coroner's examination revealed no marks of violence on her body, which makes her story a made-up one.

THE Court of Misdemeanours sentenced a man to three months imprisonment with hard labour and ordered him deported after doing his time after finding him guilty of picking up a wallet with KD140 and a gold chain of street value estimated at KD30.

The court heard that the defendant had entered the house of the victim with a

friend of his to meet the daughter with whom he had a love affair, but as they were talking he asked permission to enter the bathroom and when he reappeared he quickly left the house.

The girl discovered the disappearance of her father's wallet from the wardrobe in the bedroom and reported the incident to her father when the latter came back.

The suspect, when picked up by the police, admitted to the act of stealing and produced KD131, civil ID cards and a small gold ring.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to 3 years imprisonment with hard labour and another two men in absentia for similar periods for carrying out together a number of thefts. The court also ordered their deportation from Kuwait after the sentence. The court was told that police arrested the first accused on suspicion of committing a number of robberies. He confessed carrying out several robberies including a major one on a printing press in collaboration with two others. He told the investigators that his two colleagues had left Kuwait. But the man denied in the court he had committed the crime. He said that he was forced to confess the crimes because of police beating. His defense asked for his acquittal. But the court refused his claims and said that the evidence supplied by the police was enough to condemn the three men.

THE Court of Higher Appeal reduced a jail sentence on a pick up driver who attempted to sexually assault a boy. The appeal court reduced the sentence to 7 years imprisonment with hard labour after the Criminal Court passed a 10 years imprisonment sentence on the man. The court was told that while the boy was on his way to the branch of the co-operative society nearby his home, the accused met the boy and asked him to take him to the co-operative society. The boy went with the accused in his pick up. After reaching the co-op. branch, the boy asked the accused to return him back home. He agreed but after visiting a friend in a nearby school. In the school they found no one but the man under the point of a knife attempted to sexually molest the boy. When he started his action, the boy cried and the man hurriedly left him. The boy went home and informed his elder brother who complained to the police station. The Criminal Court saw the man guilty and sentenced

him to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour. The man appealed to the higher appeal court which reduced the sentence to 7 years.

The Court of Misdemeanours released two men of the charges of theft and breaking the window of vehicles.

A lady victim who had left her vehicle parked for five minutes came back to her car to find that her front window was broken. She also found her valuable missing.

Police investigations led to the arrest of the two convicted men on several charges of stealing and breaking into private vehicles.

During the hearing the two convicts were released from charges due to lack of evidences.

THE Court of Misdemeanours refrained from charging a fifty years old convict for committing three crimes namely taking over possession of goods which he was entrusted with and forcing a female victim to commit prostitution acts and threatening her.

The Misdemeanour Court said that the charges were presented to the court by the victim who then withdrew from the case when it came to light that the convict was involved in a relationship with her after her divorce from her former husband. The convict had spent a lot of money on her as he reported to the court, and in return, the female wanted to fight back by putting in a complaint at the police station, he said.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to four years in jail with hard labour and ordered his subsequent deportation for forgery of official documents and attempt to sell a car not owned by him.

The court heard that the defendant had rented a car from a local rental company and offered to sell it for KD1,100 to pay up some of his debts, forging all necessary documents to complete his crime.

However, the truth came to light as the buyer inquired about the owner of the car at the traffic department and learnt to his surprise that the car was owned by a local rental company and that all the documents produced by the defendant were professionally tampered with.

THE Juvenile Court has decided to abstain from ruling against a 26-year-old man and ordered him to submit a written pledge

of good conduct for two years.

The court tried the defendant on the grounds of forgery of official data as he forged his own date of birth on several documents and changed the names of his father and mother on more than one occasion.

When the matter came to light the violations which he committed turned out to have been done while he was still a teenager, and therefore the court took its aforementioned decision.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to four years imprisonment with hard labour for dealing in liquor and sexually assaulting a 16-year-old boy.

The court came to know that police officers arrested the convict while in the act at his living quarters. A police officer told the court that he along with other officers charged their way into the convict's house on the count that the convict was dealing with liquor. To their surprise, a boy was found in the convicts house during the house raid. The boy told the court that he was used sexually by the convict for money and that was the second time he came to his place for the same purpose.

Four smugglers were arrested and the 16 kilograms of hashish in their possession confiscated in the Jahra desert.

Investigations revealed that four Pakistani citizens were pushing drugs for money, and that a police patrol on night duty suspected a car driven by the suspects which it started chasing after it disregarded an order to stop for routine inspection.

THE Criminal Court sentenced an Indian (male) nurse to 7 years imprisonment and ordered his deportation from Kuwait. The nurse was accused of sexually molesting a 7-year-old girl at Al Razi Hospital. The court was told that a patient at the hospital was assigned to the nurse. One day the patient's sister along with her daughter came to visit him. He asked the nurse to take her to the canteen and buy some sweets for her. The mother who suspected their long absence went out searching for them. She found the girl crying. The girl told her mother that the nurse molested her and he tried to satisfy her by giving her more sweets. The detective officer at Shuwaikh police station testified that the nurse confessed his crime to him. For that the court sentenced him to 7 years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered his deportation.

Constituency	Registered	Voted	%
7) Kaifan	1,884		
Winners			
1) Adel Othman Al Jecran (164)			
2) Othman Ali Al Najdi (150)			
8) Hawalli	3,559		
Winners			
1) Ahmad Al Darman (leading)			
2) Tukhaime Al Tukhaime (leading)			
9) Rawda	2,014	1,027	51.0
Winners			
1) Jasser Al Jasser (700)			
2) Abdul-Aziz Al Muneed (279)			
10) Adailiya	2,609	1,315	50.5
Winners			
1) Hammad Twaigri (leading)			
2) Ali Hussain Al Omar (leading)			
11) Khaldiya	1,830		
Winners			
1) Mohammed Rashed Al Omar (160)			
2) Khalaf Hamad Al Tammezi (154)			
12) Salamiya	1,800		
Winners			
1) Jassan Moh'd Al Huxaki (603)			
2) Rashed Awad Al Jwaizari (391)			
13) Rumsaitiya	4,090		
Winners			
1) Abbas Al Khudari (leading)			
2) Jassan Qabazard (leading)			
14) Ahraq Khalait	2,457		
Winners			
1) Hmoud Al Jabri (701)			
2) Ali Abdulla Al Otaibi (468)			
15) Farwaniya	3,301	2,135	64.6
Winners			
1) Moh'd Al Musaleim (leading)			
2) Ali Al Haifi (leading)			
16) Omariya	3,125		
Winners			
1) Mubarak Al Khiranej (leading)			
2) Berrak Al Noum (leading)			
17) Juleeb Al Sharyoukh	2,116		
Winners			
1) Moh'd K. Al Muhammad (565)			
2) Abdulkarim H. Al Juhaidi (462)			
18) Sulaibikhat	2,670		
Winners			
1) Khalaf Al Enzi (leading)			
2) Sayad Abu Shaibah (leading)			
19) New Jahra	1,990		
Winners			
1) Mohaizel Al Enzi (leading)			
2) Mustaq Al Salaim (leading)			
20) Jahra	3,552		
Winners			
1) Talal Al Ayar (leading)			
2) Mohammad Al Hajral (leading)			
21) Ahmadi	4,152		
Winners			
1) Fahad Al Azmi (leading)			
2) Sattam Al Sahli (leading)			
22) Riga	2,512	1,730	
Winners			
1) Hadi H. Al Ajmi (954)			
2) Marzouk F. Al Azmi (948)			
23) Subahiya	3,426	2,530	73.8
Winners			
1) Ali Al Mari (leading)			
2) Raja Al Azmi (leading)			
24) Fahabaei	2,267		
Winners			
1) Abdulla Awad Al Khudair (790)			
2) Turki Al Azmi (773)			
25) Umm Al Hainan	1,398	908	
Winners			
1) Ayed A. Al Azmi (692)			
2) Musleh H. Al Azmi (655)			

ARAB TIMES GRAND

BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 77

PRIZES

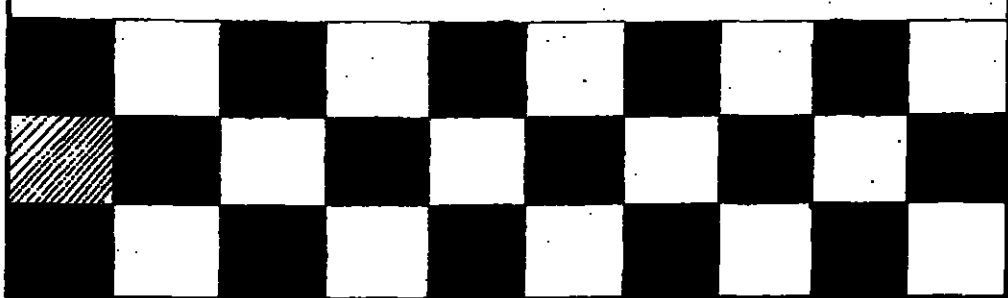
First Full House: KD 100
Second Full House: KD 60
Third Full House: KD 40
Top Line: KD 25
Four Corners: KD 25

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HOW TO PLAY

1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the
4. appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
5. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
6. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
7. Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

FREE BINGO No. 77 ENTRY



ANSWER THIS CLUE IN THE SHADED SQUARE:

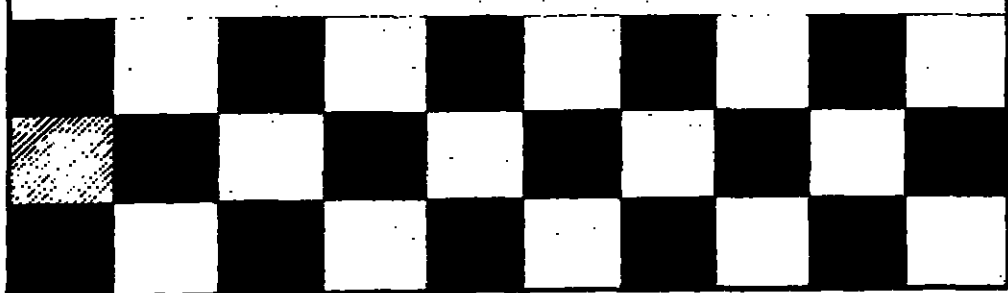
Kuwait National Council seats

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss)

ADDRESS

IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

FREE BINGO No. 77 COPY



How to claim

EVERYDAY four numbers will appear on Page Two. A number may be repeated. If this happens, continue with the rest of the numbers. Check off on your copy card the number or numbers which coincide with your selected numbers. Do this every day.

Please make a note of the last number you checked off, i.e. the one that completes your claim. Claimants will be asked to give this number which will decide the allocation of prizes.

When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT. This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified. When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to: BINGO, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait. A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh

Specialised hospital for children planned

No budget estimates yet

THE assistant undersecretary for technical affairs at the Public Health Ministry Dr Tareq Abdul Jader has said that the ministry is currently considering a project to turn the paediatrics division at the Sabah Medical Complex into a specialised hospital for children.

Jader said that the idea is currently at issue whereby the new hospital will include all rare specialisations. The project will involve a re-designing of the Sabah Complex for expansion purposes and that the proposed new hospital will consist of six new wards with a total

number of 120 beds.

Sophisticated

The head of the paediatrics division at the Sabah Complex Abdullah Al Rasheed said that no budgetary estimates have as yet been established for the new project. However, the proposed

hospital will provide highly-sophisticated paediatric medical services and heart surgeries.

Dr Rasheed said that the establishment of the proposed hospital in Kuwait will be the first of its kind in the Arab world.

Oil will give Arabs clout, says academic

By Jadranka Porter Arab Times staff

AS the superpowers refocus their attention away from the Middle East, the Arabs, with their vast oil reserves and proximity to Europe, need not despair — they will have greater leverage on the great powers than other Third World countries, Dr Shireen Hunter of Georgetown University, Washington, has said.

Their bargaining position, she contended, will further improve when Eastern European nations, no longer able to get the oil supplies at concessionary terms from the Soviet Union, turn to the Middle East for energy to fuel their economic transformation.

Painting an optimistic long-term picture she said the Arabs can also take comfort from predictions that if there are going to be losers, as there will be, they won't be the only ones. Their arch-enemy Israel as well might no longer be the strategic asset it used to be during the cold war, said Hunter in a lecture on the effects on the Middle East of the recent events in Eastern Europe, held at the Kuwait Economic Society Saturday.

"Ultimately the reduction of strategic importance of the Middle East is going to be much more equally distributed," said Hunter in a lecture which offered few new insights into the subject.

Interests

Not long ago a subject of great superpower rivalry, the Middle East is fading into the background of Soviet and Western interests, she claimed.

"Once they (the powers) battled for hearts and minds, now nobody cares for hearts and minds," she stressed in a reference to the emerging relations between the industrialised and developing countries at the end of the cold war.

This, she said, is called a mutual (superpower) disengagement and the world might see more of it as the threat from communism and the Soviet Union recedes.

"Without the Russians who needs the Middle East," she said describing emerging attitudes in the West. But the Arab countries might rephrase the question asking "Without the Russians who needs the West," she added.

Although she spoke about the Middle East as an entity, her arguments about the clout, the region may have in the future, were largely from the standpoint of the Gulf oil-rich states.

Hunter who is attached to Georgetown University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies and who has an impressive academic record, failed to explain how poorer Arab states, most populous in the Middle East, could cope with the new situation. She also cringed from explaining the impact of events in Eastern Europe on the Arab political scene. She did however, acknowledge that "it is becoming increasingly difficult to justify certain oppressive systems especially if political oppression is accompanied by economic hardships." She also voiced Western reluctance to lend support to forces calling for a change in such regimes for fear that these movements could be hijacked by extremists.

Although it is commendable for a scholar to admit to gaps in his or her knowledge, there were too many general statements and "I don't know" in her talk on the subject of her choice. Having invited questions, it was regrettable that on a few occasions she directed the questioners to local sources for answers. It was also a pity that the lecture, delivered in a lively manner and by an obviously knowledgeable speaker, was so poorly attended.

Required DRIVER

Must have experience and transferable residence.

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Legal Clinic

Should you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, write to: Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries.

PLEASE clarify the following: On expiry of my contract on Dec 31, 1990, I will be eligible for 82.5 days leave (10 years x 30 working days = 300w/days plus 12.5 days for 1/8/90 to 31/12/90 less 230 availed).

a) Can I ask for the payment equal to 82 days vacation from 1-1-90 to Nov 21, 1990?

b) If not can I ask for 82 days vacation with full payment?

c) What is the procedure for calculating indemnity. The total period of 10 years and five months are covered by four fixed contracts. Indemnity due as per my calculation is wages equal to 312.5 days i.e. present wages divided by 26 days multiplied by 312.5. Is this correct?

M.L.M. Thomas

a) YES, if you have not availed the leave, you can ask for the payment in lieu of vacation.

b) Divide the month's salary, adding other regular payments, and the total will be divided by 26 to derive the daily payment, and indemnity will be calculated accordingly.

c) That's correct. Regarding your contract, even if it differs, it would be treated as one complete period of employment from the day of joining the company.

LEGAL clinic, June 4: The legal position according to the social affairs resolution of March 1989 makes the sponsor "responsible for repatriating an employee at the end of a contract or final cancellation".

From the above statement, may I take it that I, as an employee in a small, private English school, qualify for an airline ticket to UK at the termination of six and half years employment at the same school?

The managers of the school deny their responsibility but have stated that they will provide me with a ticket, the cost of which will be deducted from my terminal indemnity. Can they legally add honourably do so?

If I am not entitled to the ticket, I am of course, ready to drop all claims to one.

B.A.C.

WHETHER you qualify for an air ticket depends on the type of contract you signed with the school. The contract stipulates your rights.

Generally, if the matter has not been mentioned in the contract, the employer, according to social affairs resolution, must provide an air ticket.

In case of a dispute, you can approach the Social Affairs Ministry, with the contract, to settle the matter.

I AM distressed to find my father living illegally with another woman whom he claims is his wife. He is a married man with three grown-up employed children living in India. He has obtained a false certificate of marriage without divorcing his first wife and

is happily staying in Kuwait for the last 15 years. Please advise me on what action can be taken in this case. He is non-Muslim.

E.M.

IF your father is living illegally here in Kuwait, it is a criminal offence according to the criminal law of this country. You can file a case against your father, if this is what you want to do. Your mother also has the right to start legal proceedings against her husband.

I would like to know exactly what you want your father to do. If you want him to return to your mother, and, if it is true he has obtained a false certificate of marriage, then a case of forgery can also be made against him.

His first wife can also file a case, according to the law for non-Muslim, to seek an annulment of the second marriage. This has to be proven in a court of law as a violation of your father's religion. It will also have to be proved that the marriage certificate has been forged.

I CAME to Kuwait in January 1988 as a contract worker. My contract was for two years. I have enclosed paragraphs 5, 6 & 9 of my contract.

Please clarify:

Do I have to accept the contract as effective for another two years, according to my contract or the labour law?

If my employer gives me one-way air fare to my country, can I demand a return ticket?

In case a round-trip ticket is given, will my employer deduct the sum of one-way ticket from my salary? What will I do to avail paragraph 9 of my contract?

Filipino worker

1. YOUR contract is for two years. According to your contract, if one of the parties does not notify, in writing, of terminating the contract one month before its end, it will be renewed automatically. If it is thus renewed, its duration would be for an unlimited period.

2. Generally, a return ticket must be given if you are going on vacation. As you did not enclose paragraph 9 of your contract, I can't give any conclusive reply. This matter depends on your contract and will be treated accordingly.

3. You did not enclose paragraph 9 for perusal, therefore, I can't give a reply without knowing the contents of the said portion of your contract.

I WILL appreciate if you clarify the following:

1. How many times can a visit visa be issued for family members. It is said that a person can apply for three visit visas per year for his family members. Someone said a visit visa can be extended to one year. Does this mean that a person can get a family visa 12

times?

2. News reports say a temporary residence can be granted for up to a year. On what grounds can this be granted and for which category?

Please mention relevant laws/clauses

A.T.M. Naruzzaman

1. THERE is no limit in the law but the decision to grant a visit visa depends on the discretion of the immigration department.

The residence law itself does not limit the number of times a visit visa can be issued. 2. To my knowledge, the authorities said a visit visa can be transferred to an iqama. Residence Law No 55, which governs the entry of foreigners fixes the maximum period of stay for one month, at the end of which a visitor must leave the country, unless he has the permission (extension) to stay in the country from the Ministry of Interior.

OUR query is regarding the completion of our three years contract. My contract states that it is effective from the date of arrival at the job site (Aug 1, 1987). So, by August 1, 1990, we would have completed our three years contract. My employer insists that the period is based on the ID card. Is that so?

E.R.A.

THE DURATION of three years would be calculated from the date of entry mentioned on the visa, the day on which the person entered Kuwait. If someone is seeking a transfer of residence, this is how it would be taken into account.

If you are talking about the contract period, then you must complete the contract from the first day of the job. And you must complete the contract.

I AM a contract employee and according to my contract, the employer has to give the air ticket to go back to my country on completing two years service. But I did not take my vacation after completing two years and continued working for one more year and submitted my resignation, which has been accepted. I am afraid the company may not give me my air ticket. I did not sign any new contract. If the company settles my benefits on the last day of departure, and doesn't give the air ticket, what action can I take?

NAME withheld

GENERALLY the matter of air ticket depends on the contract. If it has been mentioned in the contract, you have the right to claim it.

If you have asked for the air ticket, at the end of contract, and if you are leaving the country for good, you can ask for the air ticket on the basis of final cancellation of visa.

If you are staying in the country, it is not right to demand an air ticket.

In case of a dispute, it would be advisable to go to the Social Affairs Ministry with the contract to clarify the matter.

Protect Arab children, says Prince Talal

CAIRO, June 10, (Kuna): President of the Arab Children and Development Council Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz yesterday urged Arab ministers in charge of children affairs to take part in the Tunis meeting on June 23.

The Tunis meeting is to prepare a document, in conjunction with the Arab League and Unicef, expounding present conditions of the Arab child for presentation by Arab heads of state who will take part in the International Summit on Children, scheduled to convene at the UN headquarters in New York next September.

Prince Talal made the call at the end of the council of trustees fifth session here today which was also attended by the council's vice-president Susan Mubarak, wife of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

The council reviewed during its session previous activities and approved its action programme for 1990-91 including three projects. The first augurs for providing parallel education to about 14 million Arab children who do not find seats in primary schools.

The second project caters for Arab homeless children who are victims of civil or regional wars, natural disasters and desertification with the aim of protecting them against delinquency.

Agreement was also reached on expanding existing programmes in each of Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan.

A third project approved by the Arab children and development council calls for training of Arab cadres responsible for child care and welfare, including establishment of several training centres.

In addition the council recommended closer co-operation with similar organisations, such as the Arab League and Unicef, and organisation of various symposia and specialised workshops.

Meanwhile, Prince Talal chaired here today a 3-day expert

meeting to discuss establishment of the Arab Women and Family Training and Research Centre.

The council will also select an Arab capital as the centre's venue from one of the five Arab countries of Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The centre's budget, which is set at \$3.67 million, is financed by a number of international organisations.

Its establishment is in response to a desire expressed by Prince Talal to have an Arab institution to develop situation of Arab women and families to confront challenges, particularly in the '90s.

UASC plans expansion

DUBAI, June 10, (Kuna): Sources at the United Arab Shipping Company said here today that the company is studying increasing its share in shipping containers from Europe to the Arabian Gulf and South East Asia and vice versa.

The sources added that the idea was tabled at the just concluded conference for marketing directors at the company. The conference, they said, recom-

mended increasing activities in an estimated one million-container-a-year business.

The sources noted that no final decision will be made on the recommendation until all aspects of the step are thoroughly studied.

UASC, multi-national Arab company with a large fleet of 43 ships, was established in 1976 with a budget KD500 million. Last year, the company made a \$60 million profit.

Alleged abductors freed

THE Criminal Court acquitted two men accused of abducting another man by force, physically assaulting him and stealing his money, in addition to impersonating police officers.

The victim told the court that the two men forcibly abducted him and physically assaulted him. They then took him in a car to a deserted location and snatched his wallet and other belongings.

In its deliberations, the court considered the fact that the victim delayed in lodging his complaint by two days after the alleged incident, coupled with several contradictions in his complaints and also the testimony of the accused wives who said that their husbands were with them at home at the time of the alleged incident.



Management and staff of
United Shipping, Trading and Contracting Services,
express their profound sorrow on the sad demise of their port supervisor,
Mr. Abdul Hamid Butt Abdul Sattar,
who expired on 5-6-90.
May Almighty Allah rest his soul in eternal peace.
Tel: 2463150 - United Shipping
إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MOST people get a fair amount of fun out of their lives, but on balance life is suffering and only the very sound or the very foolish imagine otherwise. — George Orwell, British author.

Nationalism under check

Gorby dreads Ukraine loss

CSM: Since the Baltic republics are not that important economically to the Soviet Union, it might seem surprising that Gorbachev would choose to use intimidation in Lithuania and risk that his tactics could alienate the West and reduce badly needed economic assistance.

But Gorbachev is concerned about the possibility of initiating a domino effect and his hard-line policies in Lithuania are also intended as a warning to the other pro-independence republics.

Moscow's greatest concern must be the possibility of losing the Ukraine, the second largest Soviet republic with a population of 52 million and a territory larger than France. During the revolution of 1917, Ukraine tried to steer its national course independent of Russia, but was later incorporated into the Soviet Union by force. So important was Ukraine to the Soviet economy at that time, that Lenin confided to his fellow Bolsheviks: "If we lose Ukraine, we will lose our heads."

Secession

Later, Stalin tried to remove the threat of Ukraine's secession once and for all by breaking the spirit of the Ukrainian nation. In the '30s he created an artificial famine to crush the resistance of Ukrainian farmers to collectivized agriculture, decimated the nationally conscious intelligentsia to eliminate opposition, and destroyed the Ukrainian Church to extinguish the faith of the people.

The threat of Ukraine's secession today is still, first and foremost, economic. This proverbial "breadbasket of Europe" is the largest European producer of grains, cattle, dairy products and sugar. In natural resources Ukraine leads Europe in coal, iron ore, manganese, titanium, and natural gas. Its industry is a major producer of metals, chemicals, tractors, ships, aircraft, turbines, agricultural and mining equipment, and textiles. Most of the profits from Ukraine's production go directly into the Moscow's coffers. In fact, some two thirds of Ukraine's gross national product leaves the republic without compensation.

To keep Ukrainian nationalist sentiments in check, Gorbachev retained Vladimir Scherbatsky, the old, hard-line party boss long after the introduction of perestroika in the rest of the USSR. Not until six months ago, when the clamour for reform could no longer be suppressed, did Gorbachev replace Scherbatsky with another loyal servant, Volodymyr Ivashko. Judging from the way Ivashko manipulated the recent republican elections, he, too, has been given the task of keeping Ukraine under control. During the election campaign, electoral fraud was perpetrated by the Communist Party to maintain its hold on power. (Because Western reporters and foreign observers were barred from the country, few reports of this fraud reached the West). Despite its efforts, the party lost most of the urban seats to candidates from the Democratic Bloc.

Some 200,000 troops were brought from various parts of the Soviet Union to conduct manoeuvres in Ukraine during the elections. It's not clear whether they were there to intimidate voters, or cast additional votes for Party candidates. However, Ivashko managed to eke out a victory only in the second round when many of these soldiers were given last minute permission to vote.

Candidates

The most successful candidates in the Democratic Bloc were those put forward by Rukh, the Ukrainian Movement for Restructuring. Prior to the elections Rukh considered itself moderate and non-political, advocating economic, environmental, social and cultural reforms within the framework of the Ukrainian SSR. During the election campaign the party barred Rukh and other Democratic Bloc candidates from access to the media. It refused to publicly debate with the Rukh candidates issues of critical national importance, and even resorted to using the KGB to try to undermine Rukh by sowing religious discord and inciting inter-ethnic violence (a ploy tested earlier with great success in Azerbaijan).

Because of these attempts by the party to subvert it, Rukh came out of the election prepared to declare itself a political party and to campaign for Ukraine's secession from the Soviet Union. Prominent literary figures (Ivan Drach and Dmytro Pavlychko) resigned from the party, publicly stating that "we can only serve the truth by leaving the Communist Party and joining a democratic party." They charged that "imperialist chauvinism remains the soul of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union." It is interesting to note, that at about this time Gorbachev rushed through his presidential reforms and hurriedly assumed this all-powerful office. Presidential rule can be a powerful tool for quelling insurrection in non-Russian republics.

On March 21 tens of thousands demonstrated on the streets of the western Ukrainian city of Lvov to express their solidarity with Lithuania. A Rukh statement welcomed "the decision for renewal of an independent Lithuanian state and its return to the family of the free nations of the World," and it warned Moscow that if violence was used in Lithuania, "we will reply by organizing a political strike." The official Soviet news agency Tass reacted by claiming that these pro-Lithuanian demonstrations "would lead to a destabilization of the situation in Ukraine" and accused Rukh of trying "to inflame separatist feelings, so as to shatter the USSR." Ukraine's political reawakening and its declaration of solidarity with Lithuania's pro-secessionist stand appear to have evoked great concern in Moscow.

Restructured

Ironically, Gorbachev himself appears to have realized some time ago that the Soviet federation must be restructured. At his installation as President, he stated that "the fate of perestroika will be determined largely by the way we reshape the federation." He had proposed earlier that the republics be given greater autonomy from Moscow in cultural, economic and even political spheres. Some leading Russian intellectuals have gone further, suggesting that the Soviet Union should be disbanded to open the way for creating an alliance, perhaps even a new confederation, of independent nations loosely connected in a kind of East European common market.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1509 — Troops of Florence take Pisa in Italy.
- 1675 — France and Poland form an alliance.
- 1685 — Duke of Monmouth's rebellion breaks out in England.
- 1719 — Spanish invaders of Scotland are defeated at Glenshiels and surrender.
- 1891 — Britain and Portugal sign further convention of territories north and south of Zambesi-Portugal assigns Barotseland to Britain and Nyasaland becomes a British protectorate.
- 1895 — Britain annexes Togoland to block Transvaal's access to sea.
- 1898 — Emperor Te Tsung of China begins 100 days of reform under guidance of Kang Yu-Wei.
- 1940 — Princess Juliana of the Netherlands arrives in Canada as an exile during World War II.
- 1963 — Greek premier Constantine Karamanlis resigns in protest of King Paul's state visit to Britain.
- 1969 — Soviet and Chinese troops clash on Sinkiang border.
- 1970 — Palestinian commandos and King Hussein's army sign truce in Jordan after week of heavy clashes.
- 1971 — Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev calls for end to arms race between US and USSR.
- 1981 — Earthquake in southeast Iran kills at least 1,500 people.
- 1984 — Jordan's King Hussein says United States is disqualified as a peacemaker in Middle East and that an international conference is only way to settle disputes.
- 1988 — Syrian-backed dissidents battle with loyalists of Pales-
tinian leader Yasser Arafat at two devastated refugee camps in

Singh remains 'undefined'

Creation of national govt proposed

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): Six months after becoming prime minister of the world's largest democracy Vishwanath Pratap Singh appears a mystifying Hamlet-like figure — solitary, indecisive and nearly inscrutable.

He took office in December after running a populist campaign that inflicted a stunning election defeat on Rajiv Gandhi and India's long-ruling Congress Party.

Singh said then he had never wanted the job. This week he seemed to be saying it again.

"If V.P. Singh goes the heavens won't fall," he told reporters on a flight back from Kuala Lumpur where he had attended a summit of developing nations.

Singh said he was in favour of creating a national government of all political parties if they could reach a consensus on the major issues.

Idea

"It is only in the event of either war or a most grave national crisis that one starts exploring the possibility of a national government," a Western diplomat said.

"It is a measure of Singh's despair or courage to broach the idea now."

Others said the proposal, roundly rejected by his own party as well as by the opposition, was vintage V. P. Singh — taking a proposal by his critics and making it his own.

Singh, 59, who often says politics is the "art of managing contradictions," faces a variety of grave and complex issues from an inherently weak position.

He heads a minority government that survives only with the parliamentary support of two groups that detest each other — the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party on the right and avowedly secular communist parties on the left.

Singh's Janata Dal Party, which he formed two years ago, is an amalgam of socialists, peasants, landed gentry and former Congress Party members whose leaders distrust each other.

A Muslim campaign against Indian rule in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir has erupted into full-blown revolt.

The uprising has brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war, with Islamabad denying Delhi's accusations that it is arming and training Kashmiri militants. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Homeland

A violent Sikh campaign for a homeland in neighbouring Punjab state has worsened. More than 1,350 people have been killed so far this year with 1,800 in the whole of 1989.

Another secessionist movement in the northeastern state of Assam has killed at least 90 people since January.

The wholesale price index is rising at an annualised rate of eight per cent and is even higher for sugar, tea and edible oil, staples for poorer urban Indians.

Caste and communal conflict is on the rise

Fundamentalist Hindus have vowed to begin building a temple by the end of June on the site of a 16th century mosque in Singh's home state of Uttar Pradesh — a campaign which has already triggered bloody rioting between Hindus and Muslims.

Yet Singh's popularity remains high among the 820 million people of this multilingual and culturally diverse country, diplomats and political analysts said.



Singh... solitary, indecisive and nearly inscrutable. (Reuters wirephoto)

"Singh down-marketed himself from the very beginning to deflate high expectations," said one Asian diplomat.

"He is quite happy to be seen as weak, vacillating, politically insecure for the time being," said political commentator Prithvi Nandy.

"It gives him exactly the range of options he seeks."

Singh himself has often said he wants the country "to move from personalised politics to issue-based politics."

Politics

In India, politics is often vitriolic. Its shifting alliances, plots and counter-plots, and theatrical gestures seem more the stuff of soap operas than the soap box.

Singh has sought to stay behind the scenes of the melodrama, trying to make an art out of not exercising power and to debunk India's reverence for personalised leadership.

"The process has started where the ... prime

minister is not going to be equated with the nation," Singh told the respected newsmagazine India Today in an interview last week.

"The nation has already paid too heavy a political price for that sort of concept," said Singh, who resigned from Rajiv's cabinet in 1987 charging government corruption.

Until December the Nehru dynasty — India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv — had ruled India for all but two years since independence from Britain in 1947.

Singh last week ordered state-run television to stop showing so many news clips about him. Earlier this year, he ordered bureaucrats not to hang his picture in their offices.

But Singh does have an image. He is popularly known by the aristocratic title of "Raja Sahib."

The adopted son of a minor princely family, he distributed the family estate to poor farmers when he came of age.

Aquino plans new political movement for second term



Aquino: plans

MANILA, (Reuters): In the clearest signal so far that she may run for another term, President Corason Aquino will announce the formation of a new political movement on Tuesday, Philippine independence day.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez said it was "premature" to say the 57-year-old widow was launching her own political party, and denied that it meant Aquino would stand for re-election in 1992.

But few political commentators believed him. "The common perception is that this 'movement' will eventually metamorphose into a political party from which Mrs Aquino will launch her bid for re-election in 1992," the independent Philippine Daily Inquirer said in an editorial on Sunday.

Rekindle

The movement is designed to rekindle the broadly based support that swept Aquino to office in a 1986 "people power" revolt that ended the 20-year authoritarian rule of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

But it could put her on direct collision course with leaders of the present political coalition backing her government, led by her younger brother, congressman Jose Cojuangco.

"I have nothing to say. You cannot get anything from me right now," Cojuangco told reporters.

Gomez said disappointment with the existing political parties prompted Aquino to form the movement.

Four years after Aquino was catapulted to power in the popular revolt, the country of 60 million people is split by political infighting, threatened by communist guerrillas, rocked by repeated rumours of another coup attempt by army rebels and plagued by corruption.

The Aquino government is in the middle of negotiations on the future of a major US military base in the country. The American bases provide thousands of Filipino families with livelihoods, but also provide nationalists with a rallying point for their claim that the former colonial power has too much influence in their country.

Economic gains have been pared by a persistent electric power shortage and squabbles over major foreign investment projects, while at least half the country lives below the government's official poverty line.

Aquino has repeatedly denied that she will stand for a fresh term in 1992, describing herself as a transition president whose task was to restore democracy after the Marcos dictatorship and put the economy back on track.

If she stood again, she would be the front-runner among a host of possible candidates, who could include her estranged cousin, wealthy industrialist and former Marcos associate Eduardo Cojuangco.

The new movement will be known by the Filipino name "Katipunan" or union, which has strong nationalistic echoes back to the fight against Spanish colonial rule at the end of the last century.

Suggestions that Aquino may seek re-election, even if untrue, are likely to fuel resentment among reformist groups in the armed forces who see the former housewife as a weak leader and want her removed.

Aquino has survived six coup attempts by right-wing rebels within the military in the past four years. The armed forces have been on full alert because of widespread rumours of a possible new putsch this month.

Letters to the editor

No to deception

SIR: The eyewashing clarification from the AI authorities is a mammoth "proclamation." The people who commented regarding the AI fare increase are not fools, but they are the innocent victims. As requested by the letter dated June 4 AI faces difficulty in clearing its stand with mingling the reason as technical.

Whether they have increased the price or reduced the discounts to direct flight to Trivandrum, the payees are suffering due to increased amount which cannot be denied by AI. It is a fact, is Trivandrum not a part of the Indian subcontinent? In the reply letter AI tried to hide under the cloak of IATA.

Parliament Committee also expressed that

AI charges to Trivandrum is high and they have requested its reduction, but AI did not reduce it. During last month an AI official was caught for corruption allowing excess baggage by on the spot payment of commission. Shameless actions, blackspot for the dignity of the Indian community.

Last week operations of Trivandrum flights from Kuwait were interrupted on Thursday and Friday. It was not a sudden death, but fears, purposely created to teach a lesson to Keralites towards their repetitive calls for boycotts.

Meanwhile, AI gave bread crumbs to the top student — a "free ticket" from the quota of advertisement. Why hesitate, there's no need for this type of irregular and tactful cheating operation and crocodile tears. Within a fort-

night Trivandrum passengers, can make AI to realise, now they are reacting. Wait and see!

Dear 'Maharaja' even if, you are a member of IATA, there is no harm in own fare introduction. IATA never restricts you to do so. Next month Singapore Airlines gets IATA membership and they have decided to implement their own fare rates.

Devadas Pappaiswari,
Kerala.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Europe

Nato, Warsaw Pact work for peace

BRUSSELS, (Reuters): After decades of planning at each other over their gun sights, Nato and the Warsaw Pact are trying to make sure they can survive in a new, gentler world.

Both alliances, which held key meetings last week, hope that they will not be dismissed as relics of the cold war but rather become the key components of a new European security structure.

A summit of the seven-nation Warsaw Pact in Moscow last Thursday produced the most dramatic results.

Once a vehicle for Soviet control of Eastern Europe and the ideological police force of orthodox communism, the pact seemed on the verge of collapse after 35 years of existence.

Even Nato, noted for its cautious approach to most issues, had written it off as a military threat and there were rumblings from some of the pact's newly-democratic members that the organisation should be scrapped.

Leave

Hungarian Defence Minister Lajos Fur speaking in Moscow after the pact meeting, said on Friday Hungary wanted to leave the alliance by late 1991 and would not take part in its military exercises this year.

The Hungarian news agency MTI quoted Fur as saying: "During the talks, I stated that Hungary was not to take part in the Warsaw Pact military exercises this year and intended to place the Hungarian Army fully under national command."

"I also said this had partly to do with the review of the Warsaw Pact just now initiated and partly with Hungary's wish to cancel its Warsaw Pact membership by late next year."

The pact members agreed to turn it into "an alliance of sovereign and equal states resting on democratic principles" — a formula often used by Nato to describe itself.

Nato foreign ministers, meeting in Scotland on Thursday and Friday to consider how they can adapt the 16-nation alliance to the new climate, warmly welcome the move.

Nato officials gave Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev the credit for snatching an apparent victory from the jaws of defeat.

Isolated

"This means that they remain a coherent part of the arms control process and it will give them a forum for discussing what is going on in Europe," said one senior official, who asked not be identified.

"For the Soviets it means that they will not be completely isolated from the rest of Europe."

But Hans Binnendijk of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said it was not at all sure that the Warsaw Pact would survive. "This represents a last-ditch effort to salvage something," he told Reuters.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd rejected any attempt to equate the two military blocs at last week's Nato meeting, saying that the Warsaw Pact was simply trying to do what the Western alliance had always done. But he added:

"There are two processes (of change in each alliance). They are equally important and when they are finished, we shall have a safer Europe."

Moscow has even suggested that the two blocs should seek closer links, perhaps even in a formal sense. Nato, which until recently would have dismissed the suggestion as absurd, has said it will consider the idea and wants to know more.

Healthier

At the age of 41, Nato is in a much healthier state than its old adversary and curiously dismisses suggestions that it will wither away. But it also has problems.

A summit of Nato leaders in London next month will consider a thorough review of strategy that will make the organisation less threatening to Moscow and better able to convince its public that it still has a role to play.

"Nato is not invulnerable," Binnendijk said. "But it does have some enormous advantages compared with the Warsaw Pact."

He said the main concern for Nato would be to convince public opinion of its conviction that strong defences are still needed, including the continued presence of US troops and nuclear weapons in Europe.

Nato also still faces the problem of convincing Moscow that a united Germany should belong to the Western alliance.

In a flush of victory after the Berlin Wall fell last November, Nato insisted stridently that this would inevitably happen, with scarcely a nod in the direction of Moscow.

But last week's foreign ministers meeting took a much more conciliatory line, offering a nine-point package of assurances designed to make the idea more acceptable to Moscow.

"So far Nato has reacted in the right way, at about the right pace," Binnendijk said. "I'd give it pretty high marks."

QUOTE ME

"I've had a lot of happy days. Tennis is a game for me, it's not my life. I'm happy I won and now it's back to reality." — Monica Seles after beating Steffi Graf in the French Open final.

"I think I'm allergic to the clay or the air or something." A sniffling Steffi Graf on the delights of Paris in the springtime.

"You just have to take a look at him... the guy's a monster." Chang on Agassi's new fitness regime. "He's not my bodyguard. He's just a friend who happens to be very strong." Agassi on his trainer Gil Reyes.

"Do I believe in God? Well yes, but if everyone prayed to him, no-one would ever lose." Capriati, learning the art of polite evasion at an early age.

"We need to get a good base and we need time of two results. If we get through it and make a good start, we will be okay. But if we get an adverse result, we're up against it straightaway with the Dutch to come. We are not afraid of them, but we need to meet them with something in the bank. We shall be looking at two results really. But we badly want to win." — England soccer team manager before his team's first match at the World Cup finals in Italy.

Senior Soviet envoy in Iraq

BAGHDAD, June 10, (AP): A senior Soviet envoy is in Baghdad to discuss stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks and the large-scale Jewish emigration to Israel with Iraqi officials and Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasser Arafat, a Soviet diplomat said today.

The envoy, Vladimir Petrovsky, who is deputy foreign minister, arrived overnight and met today with Foreign Ministry undersecretary Saad Al Faisal, ahead of a planned session with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, the diplomat said. He requested anonymity.

Apart from the Iran-Iraq conflict and the Jewish emigration, he is expected to brief Iraqi officials and Arafat on the outcome of the superpower summit in the United States earlier this month, the diplomat said.

The diplomat would not say when Petrovsky would meet with Arafat.

The Soviet Union and Arafat reportedly have sought to arrange face-to-face summit talks in Moscow between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his Iranian counterpart, Hashemi Rafsanjani, to resolve the 10-year-old dispute between the two Gulf neighbours.

United Nations-sponsored talks were launched in August 1988, after a ceasefire halted eight years of war between Iraq and Iran. But they were quickly deadlocked over the question of priorities.

Iraq wanted its main outlet to the Gulf, the Shatt al Arab waterway, dredged of war debris and reopened to traffic. Iran insisted that Iraq first withdraw its troops from territories occupied in the final stages of the war.

The summit meeting was suggested by Saddam in an exchange of letter with the Iranian leadership in April. Iran has said it preferred that experts meet first to pave the way for a summit.

Iraq has been the PLO's main backer in efforts to curtail the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Arabs fear the Jewish emigrants, expected to reach 750,000 in the next few years, would be settled on occupied Arab territories, further impeding peace efforts.

Plan to attack Soviet Jews

LONDON, June 10, (AP): Palestinian commando leader Ahmed Jibril was quoted as saying today that he and his followers are planning attacks against Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

Jibril, a former Syrian Army captain, heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command which is suspected of being involved in the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie.

The Independent on Sunday newspaper said it interviewed Jibril at a hotel in Tehran last week.

"If we are satisfied that the United States will continue helping Israel financially and in all other ways to continue this immigration (of Soviet Jews), then we will use every possible means we can, including the armed struggle, to stop this immigration," Jibril was quoted as saying.

Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is at an all-time high and has worried Arabs. More than 40,000 Soviet Jews have settled in Israel so far this year and up to 150,000 are expected by year's end.

The Independent on Sunday said that when asked what he planned to do about them, Jibril said: "We are using diplomatic means now, and political efforts, but when we feel we cannot make any progress in this manner we will try to find another way."

Disunity, hardship threaten Iranian revolution

TEHRAN, June 10, (Reuters): A year into the post-Khomeini era, Iranians are scrambling to get by in an economy close to collapse.

Clerical leaders keep their differences under wraps as much as they can, and urge the people to do the same.

But while pragmatic President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani struggles to kick-start the economy without falling into conflict with the Ayatollah's austere revolutionary legacy, time is running short.

"It is clear that Rafsanjani is making ground, but it is much slower than people want," says a Western

diplomat in Tehran.

Thousands gathered at the tomb of Ayatollah Khomeini south of Tehran last week to pay tribute to the fundamentalist Shi'ite leader who brought down the monarchy in 1979 and created the Islamic republic.

Khomeini's successor as religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told them that disunity and economic failure threatened the future of the revolution. "Do not speak out your differences," he warned.

But down in the seething, yelling crowd, men collapsed from exhaustion and hysteria. No one was

listening.

For ordinary Iranians, daily life is almost as much a scramble as the scene at the tomb.

Tehran residents say that people wheel and deal to make ends meet and grumble constantly about inflation, food shortages and corruption, although few of the complaints reach the official press. Students have also begun discussion forums on the problems.

"The common people, even the government's supporters, might not complain to you, but amongst themselves they talk of nothing else," said an official, a strong government supporter himself.

"The student meetings are taken seriously by the leadership. Important clerics are going to address them," he said.

Frustrations occasionally break out in public unrest.

Earlier this year, students fought Revolutionary Guards and police around an apartment complex in Tehran after the Guards had tried to take over the student dormitories, a diplomat who went to inspect the damage said.

Political analysts see Rafsanjani's main problem as radical clerics who insist that Khomeini's teachings and policies can never be changed.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Egypt to mediate: A senior Egyptian official was quoted on Sunday as saying Egypt was trying to narrow the rift between Libya and the United States.

"Egyptian diplomacy is working... on explaining the Libyan position to the US administration... and to facilitate contact between the two sides," Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, told the London-based Asharq Al Ahsan. (Reuters)

UK MPs to visit Iran: Four British lawmakers are planning to visit Iran to try to improve relations between London and Tehran, a Sunday newspaper reported.

The visit, details of which are not final, has the blessing of the British government. The Sunday Times said.

Iran cut diplomatic links with Britain in March, 1989, soon after the late spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini called for the death of British author Salman Rushdie, charging that his novel "The Satanic Verses" blasphemed Islam. (Reuters)

Komitehs merged with police: The Iranian Parliament passed a bill Sunday merging the Islamic revolutionary Komitehs with other disciplinary forces to better face an insurgency and narcotics drug trafficking in the southeastern border areas of Sistan and Baluchistan.

In secret balloting, the Majlis or Parliament merged the Islamic revolutionary Komitehs, or internal security force set up after the 1979 revolution, with two other disciplinary forces — the police and the gendarmes or paramilitary rural police. (UPI)

PLO official to meet: A senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation started a tour of Canada on Saturday that will include meetings with Jewish businessmen and possibly with Canada's foreign minister.

Russam Abu Sharif, a special advisor to PLO President Yasser Arafat, will be asking for increased aid to help rebuild damaged buildings and institutions in Israeli-occupied territories, he said at a news conference. (Reuters)

Court adjourns punishment: A Sudanese judge has adjourned for the fifth time a hearing on whether to allow five Palestinian commandos convicted of murdering seven people to pay blood money and escape the gallows.

Judge Ahmed Al Beshir Al Hadi on Saturday postponed the hearing to July 5 and said the court's final verdict would be on July 25. (AP)

Indictment sought: A prosecutor is seeking the indictment of five Iraqis and an Italian in connection with the seizure two years ago of 180 tonnes of suspected cluster bomb parts, Italian news agencies reported Sunday.

In March 1988, police seized the parts, including some about to be loaded on an Iraqi Airways jet for Baghdad, according to investigators then. (AP)

Hussein to visit China: King Hussein of Jordan accepted an invitation to visit China, delivered by Chinese Defence Minister Qin Jiwei on Saturday, the official Petra news agency said.

No date was set for the visit. King Hussein last went to Beijing in 1984 to lobby for the convening of an international Middle East conference under UN auspices. (Reuters)

Iran-Iraq consultations: Iran and Iraq are holding consultations about a proposed peace summit, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs said yesterday.

The summit and preparations for holding it are still under consultations between the two parties, Youssef Bin Alawi Abdullah was quoted as saying by the Omani news agency. (Reuters)

Christian forces violate truce: Rival Christian forces fighting with machineguns and mortars in East Beirut and nearby hills breached a three-week-old truce yesterday, security sources said.

They said the fighting between militia loyal to General Michel Aoun and gunmen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia concentrated in the Sin El Fil district of East Beirut and the mountains of Keserwan, 20 km (12 miles) northeast of Beirut. (Reuters)

Saleh warns Armed Forces: Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh warned the Armed Forces of his newly united country yesterday to stay out of politics following reports that former rebels were gaining influence in the ranks.

"The leadership will never forgive any activity in the Armed Forces and security that propagates party work or infringes upon unity," Radio Sanaa quoted Saleh as saying during inspection visits to military units. (Reuters)

Iran and Syria to hold talks: Syria and Iran will try again this week to end the three-year conflict between Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim militia, Muslim political sources said on Sunday.

They said officials of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (party of God) would hold direct talks in Beirut under the auspices of Damascus and Tehran. (Reuters)

We'll crush uprising: Shamir

Likud backs proposed coalition; vote of confidence today

TEL AVIV, June 10, (Agencies): Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir won strong support from his Likud Party today for a right-wing government which he said would crush the Palestinian uprising and pave the way for Middle East peace.

The Likud Central Committee overwhelmingly backed his proposed coalition with small far-right and religious parties. But Shamir was cautious about his chances of winning a parliamentary vote of confidence tomorrow.

He said the new government must strengthen ties with the United States, particularly with President George Bush. Relations have been strained over Shamir's refusal to accept Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for peace talks in Cairo between Israel and Palestinians.

Baker suggested the Cairo talks to arrange Arab elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shamir last year proposed polls to choose negotiators on Palestinian self-rule.

Asked by reporters whether the Baker plan was dead, Shamir said: "I don't know exactly what the Baker plan is. There is the Shamir plan."

A unity government of Likud and the more dovish Labour Party fell in March over Shamir's refusal to back the Baker formula. The government that Shamir will present tomorrow will be the first since 1984 not to include Labour.

At the party meeting, Shamir, 74, named the 11 Likud cabinet ministers dominated by the trio of hardliners David Levy, Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Mordechai, nicknamed "constraints ministers" over their opposition to the Baker formula.

Bush has said he would work with any Israeli government so long as it understood Washington still backed the Cairo talks.

The new government would be the most right-wing in Israel's history, committed to harsher measures to quash the 30-month Palestinian uprising and expanded Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

But Shamir disputed the characterisation of the government as a narrow, right-wing coalition, saying it represented the majority of Israelis.

"The inciters among those who hate us want to present us as a monster bent on war. We won't answer them in their language. We will talk peace to the world," he said.

The new coalition is built on the support of a two-member party demanding that Israel expel all Arabs under its control. Israeli leftists have attacked it as a "black government" and Arabs denounce it as a war cabinet.

Four Likud members who did not receive cabinet posts have declined to say whether they will support Shamir in the vote, threatening his narrow 62-58 majority.

"Those (Palestinians) who use violence and are not prepared to change their path will be dealt with harshly," Shamir told the Central Committee meeting at a Tel Aviv basketball stadium.

"We will isolate the inciters, terrorists and PLO to pave the way for dialogue and mutual understanding with this population."



Hirawi returns home

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi returned to Beirut on Sunday after a North African tour in which he sought support for his Syrian-backed government.

Hirawi visited Egypt, Libya and Tunisia in search of military and financial support to strengthen his army and extend his government's control outside Syrian-held west Beirut.

Sources in the president's delegation said on Saturday Hrawi had failed in efforts to obtain arms during his tour.

The sources said Cairo cited US opposition to weapons shipments to Lebanon and Libya was only willing to arm a "national" army.

Lebanese ministerial sources said it would cost \$492 million to re-equip the Lebanese Army able to disarm militias which have blossomed during the civil war.

Above Hirawi shown with Arab League Secretary-General Cheddi Kibbi in Tunis. (Reuters wirephoto)

Polls open in Tunis

TUNIS, June 10, (Reuters): Tunisian polling stations opened for the country's first multi-party municipal elections today but gave most voters the choice only of casting their ballot or abstaining.

President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali had planned that the municipal elections should give voters a choice of parties at that level for the first time in 32 years of one-party rule.

But an opposition boycott meant that in almost all the 245 municipalities involved voters had the choice only of abstaining or voting for the ruling RCD (Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique) Party.

Up to early afternoon today, few voters could be seen outside polling stations in the capital and suburbs.

"Voters are slow in coming to case ballots in residential areas but in the rural regions there is a big rush," Mahmoud Mestiri, a former ambassador to Cairo and now a candidate, told Reuters in the El Menzah Ariana voting booth near Tunis.

Six legal opposition parties and the unrecognised Islamic Nahdha (renaissance) movement all decided to boycott the vote, citing insufficient guarantees that it would be democratic.

Their boycott, giving the RCD a walkover in most areas, was also meant as a protest at what they see as the slow pace of democratic reform.

The government, whose members have taken an active part in the electoral campaign, says the boycott is an opposition ploy to disguise its weakness and lack of support.

With the results effectively known in advance, interest is focusing on the turnout among the 1.7 million registered electors.

Arafat warns Israeli aggression

TUNIS, June 10, (Kuna): Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has warned against Israeli aggression on Arab countries and Palestinian concentrations outside occupied Palestine to find a way out of its crisis due to the escalating intifada.

In a message to the Palestinians on the occasion of beginning of the 31st month of the intifada against Israeli occupation, Arafat said that the Zionists had no other option but to leave.

The Palestinian leader said that the massacre by the Israeli gunman last May 22 of Palestinian workers was the result of the madness of a regime still clinging to illusions of expansion and aggression.

The massacre had enhanced the world's realisation of the Israeli military establishment's intentions and the international conviction that no stability, security or settlement in the region without ensuring the Palestinian people's stable rights in return, self-determination and national independence, Arafat went on.

In addition to being suspected of collaboration, Abu Aziz was said to have been involved in drug dealing and prostitution, the sources said.

The president called on his people to rally behind the unified national leadership and maintain daily demonstrations in defiance of the occupation and its laws.

Arafat described the emergency Arab summit in Baghdad last month as an "historic turning point" in the Arab nation's search against challenges, Zionist threats and international changes.

Meanwhile masked Palestinians shot and killed a Gaza Strip Arab suspected of collaborating with Israel the army lifted a five-day old curfew in the West Bank city of Nablus today, Palestinian and military sources said.

Residents of the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza found the bullet-ridden body of Jamal Ahmed Abu Azz, 29, near a mosque yesterday afternoon, Palestinian sources said. He was killed by a group of five or six masked men, the sources said.

In addition to being suspected of collaboration, Abu Aziz was said to have been involved in drug dealing and prostitution, the sources said.

Petrovsky arrived here last night from Copenhagen where he was part of the delegation accompanying Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze taking part in the European Security and Co-operation Conference.

The Soviet official met earlier today with Iraqi foreign undersecretary Saad Al Faisal in preparation for a round of talks with Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Before flying into Baghdad, Petrovsky has said he will discuss with the Iraqi leadership the Middle East issues and ways to implement UN Security Council resolution 598 on ending the

Algerian polls to end one party rule

ALGIERS, June 10, (Reuters): Algeria's first free elections on Tuesday mark the end of 23 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN) with Muslim fundamentalists poised to emerge as the biggest opposition party.

Government and diplomatic analysts expect the FLN to win its first electoral test, for municipal and provincial councils, since it led the country to independence from France in 1962.

But the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), independents and a party led by ethnic Berbers are certain to grab at least some of the country's 1,500 municipal councils.

FIS spokesman Abbasi Madani claimed 75 per cent of the vote at the close of the campaign last week and warned that anything less might constitute fraud.

"Even drunkards will vote for us," said the fiery fundamentalist preacher Ali Benhadj to chants of "jihad" (holy war) at a mass rally last Monday attended by more than 60,000 bearded young supporters.

There have been no national opinion polls but diplomats and officials give the FIS anywhere from six to 30 per cent of the popular vote.

The government has vowed to be fair and promised that observers from all 10 opposition parties and hundreds of independent lists will supervise voting and counting.

"The FLN will control the overwhelming majority of municipalities," predicted one government analyst. "It is highly probable they will control all of the provincial governments."

Abstention rates are widely expected to be high as voters question how multi-party democracy, launched by President Chadli Benjedid after October 1988 youth riots, will help them overcome pressing economic problems.

An economic recovery programme has so far made little headway in tackling inflation of 30 per cent a year, unemployment of more than 20 per cent and a housing crisis.

Two opposition parties linked to historic FLN figures, revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed's socialist forces front and the movement for democracy in Algeria of former president Ahmed Ben Bella, have urged a boycott.

They say the FLN has an unfair edge because of its giant budget and control of most media, and legislative elections should come first.

A coalition of pro-democracy intellectuals and human rights activists appealed in the press today for a high turnout, saying the future of democracy was at stake.

Despite the economic crisis, charges of corruption and brutal army repression of the 1988 riots the FLN retains strong support particularly in the rural Algerian heartland.

■ Voting in Algeria's first free elections began today in isolated bedouin regions of the Sahara desert and central steppe two days ahead of the start elsewhere, the Algerian news agency APS reported. (Reuters)



Graves desecrated

Vandals smashed 80 tombstones in the American section of the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, police said Sunday.

Occupied Jerusalem police took the cemetery's Arab guard in for questioning, but a police spokesman said there were no suspects in the desecration of the graves. The damaged tombs are on the side of the biblical Mount of Olives. The cemetery there is the largest and oldest Jewish graveyard in the world.

Eighty tombstones or raised limestone graves were smashed, crushed or toppled in two sections of the graveyard.

Flowers and memorial candles were strewn over the site, and the names of many of the deceased could not be read because of the damage.

Many American Jews ask to be buried at the site of the Mount of Olives, believed to be the place where the Messiah will appear and where the Prophet Ezekiel will blow the trumpet of resurrection.

Above a religious Jewish man with a hand radio reaches down to inspect the damage done to the graves. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Kabul rejects US bid; Najib won't step down ahead of proposed polls

KABUL, June 10, (Reuters): Afghanistan today rejected US suggestions that President Najibullah step down ahead of proposed elections to end the 12-year civil war.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Najibullah's continuance in power was not negotiable and "the United States and Soviet Union have no choice but to accept the realities of the situation."

"Any suggestion that President Najibullah should step down is non-

negotiable," he told Reuters in an interview.

The US backs elections but wants Najibullah to quit long before they are held and hand over to an interim government. Diplomats said if the US and Kabul stuck to their positions a breakthrough was not possible.

Wakil said Moscow agreed that Najibullah should remain in power during the transition period between negotiations and elections.

In answer to a question he said it was up to Najibullah to decide whether or not to take part in elections. This was his right and Washington and Moscow could not interfere in his decision.

Wakil said that at the recent US-Soviet summit Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed a political solution was the only way to settle the Afghan problem.

There were "some differences on the mechanism of the transition period lead-

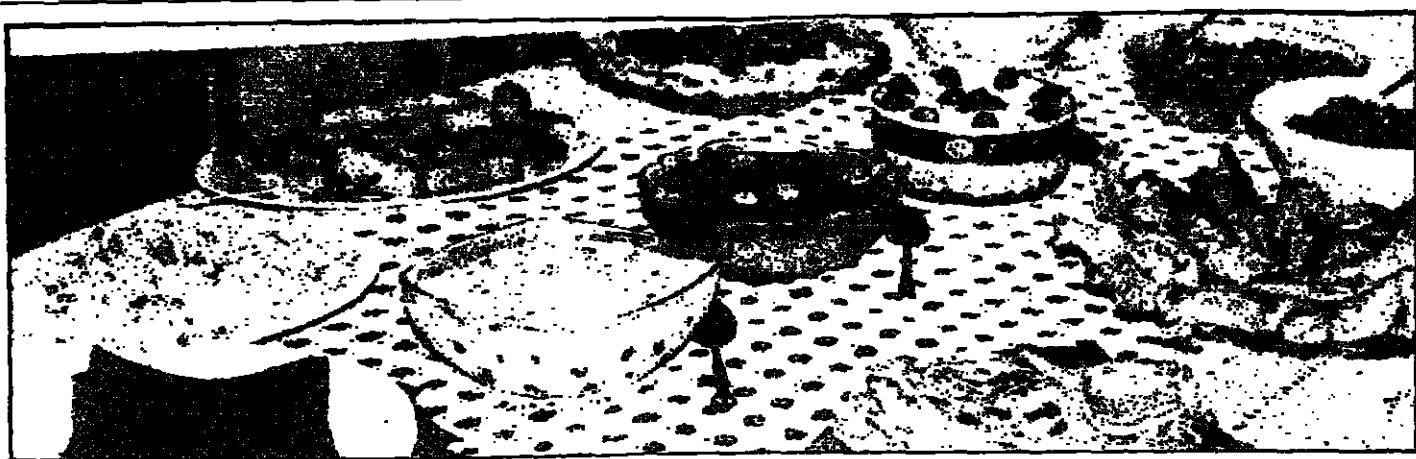
ing to general elections" but "I am hopeful the closeness in the position of the two superpowers will help in the political settlement of the Afghan problem," he said.

■ An Afghan air force MiG-21 crashed on a playing field of a Kabul housing estate today killing the pilot, rescue officials said.

They said there were no civilian casualties. Witnesses reported seeing the jet wobbling in the air before it grazed the top of a four-storey apartment building and crashed, breaking into two pieces. (Reuters)

EVENTS

People



Above and below: Some of the dishes prepared by Veara D'Costa

A love affair with gourmet cuisine

FOR some women, cooking is a chore they'd rather delegate to someone else. One woman who enjoys preparing sumptuous meals for family and friends is Goan Veara D'Costa, who recently published her first recipe book entitled "A Taste of Class."

"It was a mere interest in feeding good food to my family that led to the book," said Veara modestly. A confident young lady, she holds a full-time job in a local bank and put together her first book in her spare time.

A fine example of an enterprising woman, Veara developed what was just a passing interest in culinary art into a full-time love affair with gourmet food.

"My husband is the driving force in my life," she gushes proudly. She met her husband on a flight from Bombay, where her family are settled, to Kuwait some 15 years ago. It was love at first sight for the couple. But it is seldom love at first bite for Veara's worst food critic and best friend, her husband.

Mr D'Costa does not "approve a dish" until Veara has perfected every flavour to his taste. And her friends agree that he is the best taster. Over the years, Veara added bits and pieces of information, upgrading her talent to a fine art.

"Cooking is not difficult,"



Veara D'Costa: culinary delights

she said. "Some patience, a little guidance and lots of encouragement can turn an ordinary cook into an excellent one." Maybe. But how does one acquire patience when the dish is burning on the oven? Try, try and try again, until you've got it right, she tells us.

Veara has had many ups and downs in the kitchen. Some days, she just couldn't get the dish right. Today, she just needs to taste a dish, and presto, she prepares it.

"It's just a matter of experience," she said.

Over the years, Veara collected every recipe she invented by "mixing and matching" ingredients. A tidy, organised person, she filed them all. And when her friends began asking for cooking tips, she decided to make good use of her spare time and held weekly cooking classes.

One fine morning, some two years ago, the idea to publish her recipes was born. She meticulously tried and retried each of the 101 recipes included in her book. And she claims she has not "kept any secret ingredient" from the reader.

"I believe in sharing my experiences; that's why I wrote the book. I wanted women to enjoy the food my family and friends like so much. I don't believe in secrets," she said.

Recipes in her book range from soups and appetisers to vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, cooked a la Indian or Continental style. Some pasta dishes come from Italy. But Veara insists all the recipes are her own.

"I tried many recipes, and included only those which worked the best, and tasted good," she said.

"Learn the basics," she says

when asked to give tips on good cooking. "And share your experiences with friends." Learning basics includes getting to know the weights and measures, ingredients, and sticking to cooking time. To make things easy for readers, she has used cups measures instead of weights. "Accurate measurements are essential to follow my recipes," she said.

She has both the English and the Indian names for ingredients to aid the reader. So, if someone is not sure what kesar is, they can use saffron. She has also explained terms used in cooking, perhaps a useful guide for beginners. For instance, if you don't know blanching, she tells you how it's done. One indispensable tip is to check the list of ingredients and make sure they are in stock before planning to cook a dish.

Veara, who has a reputation of not repeating a dish at any of her parties, feels that people tend to have a close circle of friends. And if the same food is repeated time and again, guests get bored. To make life interesting, she suggests variety. And this is no big deal for Veara.

"Anyone can plan a meal in minutes from my book," she said. And the organised division of dishes under sub-headings makes this possible. But, the big question, will the recipes work. "Yes," assures Veara. As we did not try them, we can't vouch for her. But her friends who have eaten at Veara's place say she prepares mouth-watering dishes.

The lady who has turned a hobby into a part-time profession is now working on her second book — Sweet Delights, compiling her very own recipes to satisfy people with a sweet tooth. FA

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
- 9.40 Iftah Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial; part 2, featuring Majid Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madiha Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
- 11.15 News Summary
- 12.00 Al Raseef Al Barad: Arabic serial, part 2, featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite
- 1.20 Songs
- 1.30 Sanavar: cartoons serial
- 2.15 Allah Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial; ep.2, featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazim
- 3.00 Hadith Deeni: Hadith wa Imaan. Religious programme
- 3.35 Arba'a Fi Muhimma Rasmiya: Arabic film; starring Ahmad Zaki, Noora, Najah Al Majji
- 5.30 Sally: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Mama Anisa Wa Sighar: prepared by Samiya Mohammad
- 7.30 Agricultural Magazine
- 8.00 Quran and Science
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Rajul Wal Qataar: Arabic serial
- 10.35 Variety
- 11.00 Nukhta Alal Harf: magazine show featuring an interview with Abdul Rahman, Samiha Ayoub and Abdullah Ghaith



Edward Woodward plays The Equaliser

- 12.10 News Summary
- 12.15 World News via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Thunder Cats: cartoons
- 6.30 Animals of Africa: "In the Fever Tree". Tropical Forest. Focus on Madagascar's forests.

Sports channel 6 & 45

- 2.03 American basketball (playoffs) (recording)
- 4.15 UAE World Cup message
- 5.55 World Cup: Costa Rica vs Scotland
- 9.55 World Cup: England vs Ireland

7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of Arab and world news.

7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles' credit card is misplaced. Comedy.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Around the World: a global view of the world.

9.00 The Equaliser: "Mystery of Mannon". Evette seeks McCall's help to save her father, Marcell. Starring: Edward Woodward.

10.00 Family Matters: "Man's Best Friend". Carl brings a dog home. Comedy.

10.30 Classic Colour Movies: "Twelfth Night".

12.00 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine: D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

Social

Overseas students party
June 27: 6 pm. British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any university, polytechnic or college in Britain.

A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St., Mansouriya.

Irish reception
June 16: Saturday, SAS Hotel, 6-8 pm. All Irish nationals are invited to a reception which will be hosted in honour of the Irish foreign minister and Irish ambassador. They will be visiting Kuwait later this month.

For details contact Marwan Salamah — 2402628/9; or Ms V. Al Mutawa — 5621701/5622701.

Sri Lankan meeting
June 14: The Sri Lankan embassy has arranged a meeting for Sri Lankans to hold talks with Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra and his accompanying delegation will be visiting Kuwait on June 13 and 14. All Sri Lankans who wish to meet the dignitaries are requested to come to the Sri Lankan embassy on Thursday, June 14, morning.

Festival on ice
June 18-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 2533000/2533000.

Hotels

At the Meridien
MANGO Festival: until June 14. At Fingan and Al Waha. La

Brasserie Restaurant.
Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.

Chinese Corner: Monday night feature. Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.

Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.

Jazz, Night, New Orleans: atmosphere on Thursday night.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bandar Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.

Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.

Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Mesliah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdoweh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.

Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS
Bistrotto Sunday, Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.

Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

June 12: 7-9 pm. Kuwait Players hold preliminary auditions for musicians and singers, all ages, at the Sunshine School, Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winston and Glenis Muckle with musical directors Oliver Lister and Liza Hoy. It will be presented at October end in Salmiya Cinema. Anyone interested in this production is invited to come along to the auditions. For details ring: 5748256/7; 5625316; 5615357; 571782.

Fankar
June 15: Fankar Arts Group presents variety show at Indian Embassy Hall. The evening has been organised in honour of Indian film director Moeen Amjad. Highlights include music by Edwin Dass Orchestra and Hindi skit by Arif Kazi.

Theatre

Konkani play
June 15: 5 pm. IAC, Funaites. The K.C.W.A. will perform a Konkani play *The Moka Naka*. Gate passes now available. For details contact Charles Vas — Tel. 4312953.

Cinema

British Council
June 16/17: 6.30 pm. "84 Charing Cross Road", a universally acclaimed film based on the true story of Helene Hanff (Anne Bancroft) will be shown. It tells the story of a 20-year love affair with the staff of a second-hand bookshop. For reservations call 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.13 am

Dhuhr Prayer 11.47

Asr 3.21 pm

Maghreb 6.47

Isha 8.19

Art

A glimpse of Spanish art

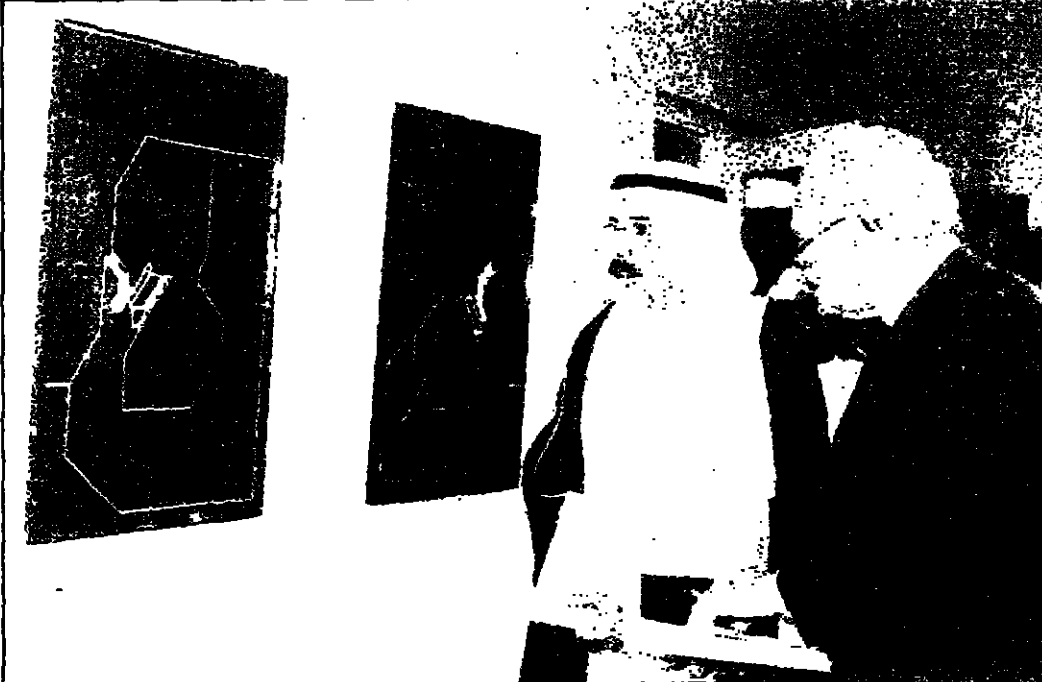
AN exhibition that went on show recently at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery gives a glimpse of the contemporary printing and engraving scene in Spain.

The show has been organised by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in co-operation with the Spanish embassy in Kuwait.

The selection of prints and engraving displayed at the Kuwait show focus on certain techniques in the works of A. Avia, J. Castillo and Jose Hernandez. Expressionist-lyrical technique has been used in some abstracts. Socio-realism surfaces after the advent of pop art in Spain.

The works of some of the best known contemporary Spanish artists had been included in the show.

Pictures show some of the engravings and prints on show, and guests admiring some works.



BUSINESS

IMF lending machine looks for new bearings

WASHINGTON, June 10, (Reuters): The International Monetary Fund, torn between East Europe's new thirst for money and the southern hemisphere's old hunger for food, is reassessing its multiple roles.

The agency, set up just before the end of World War Two to help nations with balance of payments problems, now must try its hand at poverty relief and environmental damage control as well.

But some monetary experts fear the agency's efforts to tackle an agenda which far exceeds its original aims of helping with debt problems and promoting economic co-operation may be self-defeating.

"Some people are worried that the IMF will cease to exist in its key form if it gets too far away from its original role," said one monetary source.

The IMF's informal self-scrutiny, under way for years, has taken on a greater sense of urgency after a decision last month to pump an additional \$60 billion into the agency's coffers — a 50 per cent capital increase.

"The debate is intensifying, now that the funding is approved and specific directions are being formulated," another source said.

Officials say the debate centres on whether the IMF should continue to broaden its role or retrench and concentrate on fostering economic co-operation and achieving economic balance among countries.

The agency's responsibilities have never been as great since the Third World debt crisis burst onto the stage in 1982. Although major industrial countries have enjoyed nearly a decade of economic expansion, grinding poverty continues to dominate individual countries and sometimes entire regions.

The debt crisis continues to stalk policymakers as changes in Eastern Europe challenge the IMF to help turn socialist, financially strapped economies into healthy free markets.

Latin America, with combined debts of \$410 billion has made little progress. Africa owes an estimated \$226 billion and remains in critical condition.

Eastern Europe, which is lining up for massive assistance on its \$95 billion debt, will benefit from the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) set up last month by 40 countries.

But the EBRD is geared mostly to helping the fledgling private sector in Eastern Europe, and its basic capital of \$12 billion is dwarfed by the IMF's capital increase alone.

IMF strategists stress that no region will be pushed aside by the needs of another, and managing director Michel Camdessus has said the debt crisis will not take a back seat to the historic emergency of Eastern Europe.

But internally there is festering concern that the pressures from Third World countries to help the poor and from Western environmentalists to stop damage to the environment — from the earth's thinning ozone shield to Brazil's shrinking rain forests — are stretching the agency well beyond its capabilities.

The IMF considers itself to be "lean and mean," as one monetary source put it, with total staff of 1,700 against 6,000 at the World Bank, its sister agency for development finance.

Many see this comparatively slim structure as an asset which allows for greater agility in providing funds and recommending policies.

The capital increase agreed at the IMF-World Bank spring meeting a month ago will make it easier for the fund to deal with its new responsibilities, but it will be some time before the money is actually committed and can be put to work.

Member countries have until June 28 to ratify the agreement, which would then take effect on Dec 30 next year.

Iran opens trade fair in Lebanon

BAALBEK, Lebanon, June 10, (AP): Iran opened one of its largest ever trade fairs to the public today to underscore its support of Muslims fighting Christians in the 15-year-old Lebanese civil war, an Iranian official said.

The official, identified only as Zafarian, a deputy minister of commerce, told the inaugural ceremony that the volume of goods on display and the number of companies taking part in

this fair "indicate the special concern that officials in Iran feel for Muslims of Lebanon."

The exhibition took up a 7-storey building still under construction plus surrounding empty lots.

Zafarian said 180 companies took part in the exhibition, the third in Lebanon since the Islamic republic was established in 1979. Last year, he said, only 70 firms contributed to the fair in

Beirut.

The goods on display were shipped in 100 containers, he said.

A banner saying in English: "We do export the best, try us," welcomed visitors on the first floor.

The Islamic republic's cultural department contributed a whole floor to the fair, comprising a bookshop, a children's library and a video room screening Iranian films.

In one of the English-language illustrated children's books, called "The Footprints of Blood," the soul of a martyr invites youngsters to follow in his footsteps.

It concludes: "And now, if you want to find me, you should come to the warfronts, borders and inside the barriers, so you would see how I spout out of the pure hearts of youngsters, old men, guards and soldiers for the

preservation of Islam."

The surprise was a selection of wedding gowns with plunging necklines and some off-the-shoulder party outfits with prices ranging from \$200 to \$600.

Next was a stand displaying women underwear in shocking pink and purple.

"We're not backward," commented a chador-clad Hezbollah woman, to a group of visibly surprised reporters.

Islamic dress code dictates that women cover their hair and wear a loose smock fully covering arms and legs in the company of men other than their husbands, brothers and fathers.

Some of the other expensive items in the fair were the handwoven silk carpets, with a 1.5 metre-long (5-ft) carpet selling for \$2,200, and a caviar at \$250 a kilogramme (2.2 pounds).

Mexican products denied access to American markets

US, Mexico eye free trade pact

WASHINGTON, June 10, (AP): President George Bush and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari have decided to open negotiations to reach a US-Mexican free trade agreement, according to US officials.

Bush and Salinas planned to meet tonight, laying the groundwork for a formal announcement of their decision by the White House on Monday.

Completion of a free trade agreement could take years but, if successful, it would bring all of North America — 335 million people — into a single market free of tariffs and most non-tariff barriers.

Mexico would join the free trade zone established between the United States and Canada two years ago.

The officials, asking not to be identified, said preparatory discussions among experts from the two sides will begin shortly with

an eye toward getting formal negotiations under way by the time of the next Bush-Salinas meeting in December in Monterrey.

The two presidents will dine at the White House tonight without aides. Secretary of State James Baker will meet with Salinas on Monday morning.

Salinas, who will address a gathering of business executives Monday evening, is making his visit at a time of unusual harmony in Mexican-American relations.

During the 1980s, disagreements over Central America produced deep cross-border hostility.

The only significant setback recently was the US-orchestrated kidnapping in April of a Mexican doctor wanted in the 1985 murder of a US Drug Enforcement Administration agent in Mexico.

Administration officials have consistently praised Salinas for what they regard as his courage in confronting Mexico's acute drug smuggling problem and in attempting to reverse eight years of economic decline.

In recent years, Mexico has moved decisively to modernise its economy, selling off hundreds of resource-draining state enterprises and joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The latter move has led to significant trade liberalisation.

Two-way US-Mexican trade totals about \$52 billion, but experts consider this figure to be far below the potential.

Salinas, who took office in December 1988, initially was cool to the idea of a free trade pact but since has become a strong proponent.

After the Mexican Senate gave Salinas approval last month to

seek an FTA with the United States, he said. "Mexico will not be left out of the new world configuration. The speed of the changes requires decisive answers on all fronts, in all markets."

Many Mexicans have been concerned that the United States, with its more developed economy, would overwhelm Mexico under an FTA. But those fears have gradually abated, and much of the remaining opposition is confined to Mexican labour unions.

A recent report by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, said a US-Mexican FTA would offer the "best hope for Mexico to join the ranks of the world's prosperous countries."

Many Mexican products currently are denied access to US markets, including steel, textiles and some agricultural goods.

India and Nepal to end trade dispute

NEW DELHI, June 10, (UPI): India and Nepal, scoring a major breakthrough in their recent stormy relationship, agreed Friday to end a 14-month-old trade and transit dispute that has staggered Nepal's economy, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The imbroglio between the two nations was resolved during a two-hour meeting between Indian Prime Minister V. P. Singh and his Nepalese counterpart, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the Indian official said.

According to the spokesman, New Delhi agreed to a separate trade and transit treaty as demanded by Kathmandu.

In return the Nepalese leader said the Himalayan kingdom, which is sandwiched between China and India, "would take into account India's security concerns," the official said.

Nepal had angered India by buying weapons from China, which New Delhi viewed as a violation of their friendship treaty. Kathmandu earlier this year suspended the last 10 per cent of the arms purchased from China.

Details of the pact were not disclosed.

"Nepal wished to restore, revitalise and consolidate its relationship with India," the official quoted Bhattarai as telling Singh.

The Indian leader told the visitor that India was committed to improving relations with Nepal and that his government also was co-operating with Nepal in diverse areas.

The Nepalese prime minister later attended a banquet hosted by Singh.

"We are deeply conscious, in particular, of the need and the benefit of strengthening the close and age-old bonds of friendship with India," Bhattarai said in a speech.

Bhattarai arrived in New Delhi Friday on a three-day official visit aimed at resolving the thorny trade and transit dispute that has devastated his country's economy.

Land-locked Nepal depends on the eastern Indian port of Calcutta for transit of its exports and imports.

The goods are moved by truck through 15 border checkpoints, all but two of which were closed by the government of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi when bilateral trade and transit treaties expired in March 1989.

The closures greatly restricted the amount of goods moving in and out of tiny Nepal, resulting in shortages of fuel and medicines and increased inflation, which severely strained relations between the two countries.

The Indian government wanted to negotiate a single treaty on trade and transit that would close loopholes it claimed were being exploited by Nepalese businessmen.

But foreign diplomats, and Nepalese officials said New Delhi was angered most by Kathmandu's purchase of anti-aircraft guns from China, India's rival for influence in the kingdom, and was using the dispute to pressure Nepal to accept it as its sole weapons supplier.

Bhattarai before his departure to New Delhi told reporters in Kathmandu that he was suspending the import of arms from China as a "goodwill gesture to India."

E. German reforms offer new investment spectrum

FRANKFURT, June 10, (Reuters): Investors are seeking out West German blue chip stocks with "red" or "green" credentials.

They hope to cash in on the clean-up of the ecological mess that runs through much of East Germany's antiquated industry.

"There will be teething problems at first, as with every new venture, and they will have long phases ... but some companies could benefit sooner than many expect," said Alexander Magona, German equities analyst with Banque Paribas capital markets.

Problem areas in East German industry, such as its outmoded energy plants, make perfect openings for Eastern companies.

Derelict or poor quality buildings, and

industrial pollution are other problems facing East Germany.

Demand created by the need to overcome these immediate problems means utilities, construction companies and any company with ecologically sound products are likely to have an early success in the newly opened East German market, Magona said. This in turn would boost their share prices.

The shares which markets call "red" chips include many of West Germany's larger companies, such as metals processor Metallgesellschaft and electronics giant Siemens, which already had links with Eastern Europe or were quick off the mark in forging new ones. They would have no difficulty financing

investment in Eastern Europe.

The two stocks soared after the November 9 opening of the Berlin wall on hopes of higher profits from the East. Siemens shares jumped 50 per cent after November 9 to a 1990 high of 823.50 marks (\$487), while Metallgesellschaft surged 64 per cent to a 1990 high of 723.50 marks (\$427).

Such sharp leaps among "red" chip stocks led West German shares to new highs earlier in the year, lifting prices 34 per cent between early November and early February.

Foreign buyers streamed into the market, speculating on the potential gains companies stood to make from the political and economic opening of Eastern Europe.

AMLC appoints new deputy chief

A NEW deputy chief executive has been appointed to the Bahrain-based Middle East regional office of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC).

He is Rick Capel who comes with strong, practical experience in livestock production, marketing and exports. Capel is not new to the Middle East.

He replaces John Wotton, deputy chief executive since 1986, who returns to Australia to take up a newly created position with AMLC as lamb programme co-ordinator.

Capel will work along with Stephen Martyn, the AMLC chief executive at the Bahrain office. The office was set up to serve Australia's meat and livestock customers in the Middle East.

"I am looking forward to the challenges of my new position and the possibilities of a refreshing change in lifestyle," says Capel. He has come to Bahrain with wife, Geraldine, and daughter, Gillian.

He holds a Bachelor of Rural Science degree obtained in 1978 from the New England University and has extensive experience in working and managing livestock enterprises.

Capel began his career in a sheep and cattle rearing venture, moving on to serve as technical representative for Hoechst Agrivet, before joining AMLC as a livestock officer.

He became a senior AMLC livestock officer in 1987.



The Bahrain office of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC) hosted a reception recently at the Regency Inter-Continental Hotel to bid farewell to John Wotton (right), AMLC's deputy chief executive who goes back to Sydney after nearly four years on the island to take up the new post of Lamb Programme Co-ordinator, and welcome Rick Capel (second from left), who takes his place. They are with (from left) Stephen Martyn, AMLC chief executive, Mohammed Baqer Al Tajir, of the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture and Rashid Ali Al Amin, general manager of Midway Supermarket.

developing a specific interest in the Middle East. He subsequently served as Acting Manager for the Middle East and has visited the region on several occasions.

John Wotton meanwhile, says farewells are always sad affairs for him and his family and that he will regret to leave behind the many close friendships he has made in the region over the

nearly four-year period of his stay.

"It has been a great privilege to live and work in Bahrain and travel in the region and it has given me much pleasure and experience," says John.

He is looking forward to his new job with AMLC in Sydney where he will co-ordinate all AMLC activities related to lamb,

supporting the development and implementation of a comprehensive marketing strategy for the product.

Wotton says the AMLC is placing special emphasis on the lamb industry during 1990-91 and he looks forward to playing a key role in this very important segment of the Australian meat and livestock market.

West seeks assurances from Moscow on payments delays

BASLE, Switzerland, June 10, (Reuters): Western central bankers, alarmed the Soviet economy may be sliding into chaos, are seeking assurances that Moscow's state bank will tackle a mounting volume of unpaid debts to Western companies.

But despite widespread concern that a collapse of the Soviet economy could destabilise both East and West, central bankers say there are practical limits to the support they can offer Moscow in its attempts to head off a payment crisis.

Soviet arrears on trade debt, estimated in the West at up to \$2 billion, are expected to dominate talks on the fringes of this year's annual meeting of more than 80 central banks from East and West in Basle.

"We will want to hear from the Soviets how they plan to tackle the problem,"

one Western central banker said.

The annual talks at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), are officially confined to Monday but informal contacts began on Saturday when Viktor Geraschenko, chairman of the Soviet state bank Gosbank, attended a traditional East-West dinner.

Central bankers said that was a strictly social occasion but they expected Geraschenko to elaborate today or tomorrow on his announcement in Moscow last month that the Soviet Union would sell commodities, including gold, to reduce unpaid bills.

At the time, he said the Soviet Union was making contact with Western central banks to help bridge the gap before higher exports could generate extra hard currency. He also raised the possibility of conducting gold swaps to generate

funds, a prospect that has contributed to a slide in world gold prices.

The rapid deterioration of the Soviet economy this year, with debate on reform bogged down and adding to President Mikhail Gorbachev's array of problems, has led to a financial squeeze and widespread delays in payments for Western imports.

Western central bankers, anxious to prevent any destabilisation of world trade and calm nervous financial markets, have been seeking ways to help but believe that one traditional answer — a bridging credit — is not an option.

Central banks offered Poland \$500 million last year and are putting the final touches to a \$300-million bridging loan for Hungary. But the Soviet Union, in contrast to Warsaw and Budapest, is not a member of the International Monetary

Fund or World bank and cannot hold out the prospect of official Western credits in the pipeline.

"You have to ask, 'a bridge to what?'" said another Western central banker. "It is not an option."

That leaves practical support focusing on gold swaps — deals which involve depositing gold with commercial or central banks in return for cash with an agreement to repurchase the metal at a later date. Most deals are for one to six months.

Some commercial bankers believe Moscow will try to step up the volume of gold swaps with central banks in coming months and speculate that a co-ordinated deal with several Western nations would make it easier to raise large amounts of cash.

It would also be a concrete

The volume of Soviet gold reserves remains a mystery to the West but estimates centre on about 2,000 tonnes.

Although that amount would put Moscow on a par with industrial nations such as France and West Germany, Western central bankers believe Moscow would be unwilling to tie up too much of its reserves.

With gold languishing at only about \$355 an ounce on markets, talk of extra swaps could depress prices further and reduce the hard currency Moscow could earn by selling its normal gold production.

Although the gold swapped does not come directly onto the market, many traders believe Moscow will in coming months not be in a position to repurchase the metal it has pledged — and may then end up having to sell it directly after all.



Triaca elected

Argentine Labour Minister Jorge Triaca at the 77th annual International Labour conference where he was elected president of the conference on June 6. (Reuters wirephoto)

Argentina makes \$40m to creditors

NEW YORK, June 10, (Reuters): Argentina has broken a 26-month holdout and paid its foreign bank creditors \$40 million of past-due interest on its commercial debt, officials said on Thursday.

However, creditors had expected a good deal more ahead of possible debt reduction talks.

"We paid \$40 million," said a government official, who requested

anonymity. He was travelling with Argentine Central Bank vice-president Javier Gonzalez Fraga.

Argentina last paid interest on the bank debt in April 1988. The country owes its bank creditors more than \$6 billion in overdue interest payments, US bankers said, but Argentina's bankers expected a bit more generous payment after two years.

Several members of the advisory committee thought as much as \$100 million would be paid before the opening of possible debt reduction talks.

Argentina is vying to become a candidate for US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's debt reduction programme, which was unveiled in March 1989 and has proved successful for Mexico, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Morocco, and Venezuela.

As a prelude to the debt talks with commercial banks, Argentina arranged to have an International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby loan reinstated in late May.

The IMF loan was released on May 25, six months after the first of five instalments was disbursed and three months after the loan was suspended due to the country's relapse into hyperinflation.

The IMF loan totals \$1.4 billion, and about \$500 million has been disbursed so far.

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Wildlife

Rhinoceros — on the brink of extinction

By Brooke Chilvers

HARARE, Zimbabwe (WNL): Who would pay thousands of dollars for two pounds of a substance that's not real horn but makes up fingernails and hair? Yet myth, hubris and greed have combined to bring the rhinoceros to the brink of extinction for just that — a growth of the protein keratin that the rhino carries on its head like a horn.

One of nature's most intriguing creatures is about to disappear forever from the African landscape. Despite its solitary habits and dangerous temper that Africa's rhinoceros inherited from its ancestors over the past 60 million years, the battle against its only natural enemy — man — seems lost.

Of the more than 30 species that once roamed the earth, today only two species remain in Africa: the black rhino (actually dark grey) and the white rhino (pale grey). And although the white rhino seems to be holding its own, largely through South Africa's conservation efforts, the black rhino population is about to disappear. Of about 65,000 black rhinos that inhabited the African bush less than 20 years ago, it is estimated that fewer than 4,000 remain.

Since the 1970s, black rhinos have become extinct in Somalia, Ethiopia, Chad and Uganda. They have been almost wiped out in Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania, and only a few individual animals are thought to survive in the Central African Republic, Sudan, Angola and Mozambique.

While the 19th century was the heyday of "the great white hunter," who routinely bagged dozens of rhinos during a single safari for their meat, for exotic trophies or simply for sport, as early as 1880, big-game hunter F.C. Selous noted that both black and white rhinos had disappeared from most of their former range, "probably through some freak of fashion in knife handles or combs or whatnot in Europe or Asia." South Africa's last black rhino was shot in Cape Province in 1953.

During the 1960s, in what was probably the first conservation programme to protect an African animal from extinction, 4,000 southern white rhinos were captured in South Africa and relocated to zoos, parks and game preserves throughout the world. The present global population of southern white rhinos is between 4,500 to 5,000 animals, including 3,400 in South African game reserves. The northern white rhino, in contrast, has been exterminated within the past 10 years in Sudan, Uganda, Chad and the Central African Republic, and only 20 individual animals remain in Zaire's Garamba National Park.

The alarm finally sounded for Africa's black rhino when the World Wildlife Fund declared 1980 the "Year of the Rhino." This was clearly far too late in most of Africa. Starting in Kenya in the 1970s, then spreading west to Uganda and the Central African Republic, the bloody path of poachers armed with sophisticated weapons like machine guns has now pushed south to Tanzania and Zambia and has littered the bush with more than 60,000 hacked and rotting rhino carcasses. In the past seven years alone Tanzania's rhino population has plummeted from almost 3,800 to 255; Zambia's from 2,800 to 95 and the Central African Republic's from 3,000 to 3.

The question now is whether Zimbabwe, just south of Zambia, can prevent the plunder of its rhinos. "Zimbabwe has the single largest black rhino population left in Africa — a mere 1,775 animals," says Glenn Tatham, chief warden of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, "and the majority live here in the terribly vulnerable Zambezi Valley and Sebungwe areas. Tatham was standing over the body of the 44th poacher killed during the past five years by his "Operation Stronghold" Game Scouts. The rifles and ammunition, the flies buzzing around the dead man and the bloody rhino horn are all graphic evidence that the bush has become a battleground. Game wardens face the unpleasant choice of killing the poachers, or being killed.

Said Rowan Martin of Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks, "Saving rhinos is mainly a question of protection. And that costs money — lots of money. The minimum annual expenditure for Protected Area Management — in an easily protected area, requiring a single game ranger per 50 square kilometres — costs \$200 per square kilometre. Anything less is just throwing away money. We are spending only \$10 per square kilometre and losing rhinos." Martin added that the Zambezi area requires five times the present number of field staff, at a cost of \$2.5 million yearly.

Since 1984 Operation Stronghold has focused on detection and intervention. "Each gang stays in the Zambezi Valley for an average of 10 days. Our job is to find and arrest, or, if necessary, to kill poachers before it's too late for the rhino," says Tatham. Equipped with a helicopter and radio equipment, scout patrols can be on top of an armed gang within hours instead of days.

The reason for the large-scale slaughter is simple: Money. It corrupts game guards and government officials alike. It arms poachers with AK-47 or Kalashnikov automatic assault rifles or .375mm hunting rifles. As a result about 100 rhinos disappear from the African bush every month to provide powdered rhino horn — used in traditional Asian medicines for its supposed curative and aphrodisiac powers — and dagger handles considered a sign of virility in Yemen. The current market for rhino horn is US\$3 million to \$6 million annually. In Asia the retail price for a horn, which weighs between 1.5 and 3 kilograms (3.3 and 6.6 lbs), ranges from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

The largest consumers of rhino horn are China, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, South Korea, the Sultanate of Brunei, Thailand, Taiwan and Yemen. Most are members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, under which rhinos are protected, but illegal trade still continues.

Some governments have been successful in educating their pharmacists to use substitutes such as saiga antelope horn for rhino horn in medicines. But probably one of the brightest hopes for the rhino's future comes from North Yemen, which once imported about 50 per cent of all rhino horn. A combination of fewer jobs in the Saudi Arabian oil fields, where many Yemenis worked, and a devalued currency mean that the status-conscious Yemeni has less money to spend for the traditional handle. The government, meanwhile, has banned the import and export of rhino horn, and merchants now use water buffalo horn, plastic and even wood to make the traditional daggers.

Both the killing of rhino and trade in rhino horn are illegal in all African countries except Burundi, a lively trading centre for rhino and elephant products. But even when countries sign conventions or pay lip service to the conservation of Africa's wildlife, reality proves otherwise. Said one official, "Trade bans and treaties are meaningless to corrupt government officials who are above the laws of their own land and exploit their diplomatic pouches to transport illegal, banned rhino horn from Africa to the East."

The local parks and conservation departments are themselves often a danger to the animals that they claim to protect. An estimated one third of the rhinos poached in Kenya over the past 10 years were killed by employees of the Wildlife Department. Government indifference to the decimation of the rhino population is not the only culprit: Wildlife administration has vanished during civil wars in Angola, Mozambique, Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia and Uganda.

Against all the bleak statistics, is there hope for the rhino? The answer is yes and no. There are now 183 black rhinos in 71 zoos around the world, but only five zoo populations consist of one female and two or more males, the optimum ratio for a good reproduction rate. And not everyone is happy about rhinos being exported from Africa to safe breeding grounds abroad. Some African nations would rather see their rhino populations disappear than admit that they are unable to conserve the animals at home.

On the positive side, the governments of Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe have all established national wildlife preservation policies, and their black rhino populations have stabilized or are growing. But conservation programmes need money for specific projects: to relocate rhinos, fence land for preserves and educate native populations on the benefits of taking care of wildlife.

International associations fighting for the survival of the rhinos include:

- The Rhino & Elephant Foundation, P.O. Box 381, Bedfordview, 2008 South Africa.
- Rhino Survival, Zimbabwe National Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 8575, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20037.
- African Wildlife Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.



A last-ditch effort is being made to save the rhino.

By David Clark Scott

JAKARTA, (CSM): An old truck laden with a mountain of confiscated pedicabs rumbles down Jalan Thamrin. The cargo will be loaded onto a barge at Tanjung Priok harbour and then unceremoniously dumped in the Indian Ocean.

"Becak make good home for fish," says a taxi driver with a wry smile.

The fate of the lowly becak (pronounced Bay-chawik) is the buzz of Jakarta now.

By the end of this month, the city's governor, Wiyogo Atmodarminto, has resolutely declared that this overcrowded metropolis of eight million will

be "becak-free." Currently, the three-lane highways feeding Indonesia's capital are clogged each day by a beeping, pulsating mass of almost every known form of wheeled transport, from horse-drawn carts, pedicabs, and orange-domed three-wheeled Vespa scooters (known as bajaj) to millions of weaving motorcycles, minibuses, double-decker buses, trucks and automobiles.

But progress, or a Darwinian sense of it, has led to a local ordinance declaring the pedicab

driver persona non grata in Jakarta. In the interest of freer flowing traffic, logic dictates that the slowest moving vehicles (whose operators pay a little heed to traffic laws as most Indonesian drivers do) should be retired.

"Why is the becak driver the strongest man on Earth?" is the riddle making the rounds at diplomatic soirees and roadside kaka lima (pushcart kitchens).

The answer: "Because one becak driver can hold up 50 cars."

• The more socially minded and

image-sensitive say driving a becak is an inhumane occupation. Making draft horses out of people harks back to serfdom in a previous century. It's the sort of backward image a nation climbing the economic ladder does not want to project to visiting foreign investors.

Becak peddling is hard work. Becaks are single-gear, three-wheeled pedicabs with an iron frame weighing about 50 pounds before a passenger (or two or three) climbs aboard. (With a bid

of coaxing, my becak driver agreed to dismount and let me have a go. You sit high to see over the cab. Turning is stiff and precarious. A bule (white man) at the helm of a becak drew snickers and hoots of amusement from the sidewalk gallery. Embarrassed, my driver quickly insisted I return to the passenger seat.) Even a small grade requires the becak driver to hop off and push his cargo. Often, idle youngsters by the roadside will assist in getting the becak up a hill.

The pedicab may be outmoded, but it's also an Asian institution. Feelings about its imminent demise run deep.

A recent survey by the Indonesian weekly news magazine Tempo showed that only 13 per cent of respondents agreed the becak should be eliminated, and 81 per cent disagreed with the programme to remove the vehicles. Ninety-two per cent felt it was not an inhumane occupation.

The survey results, says an

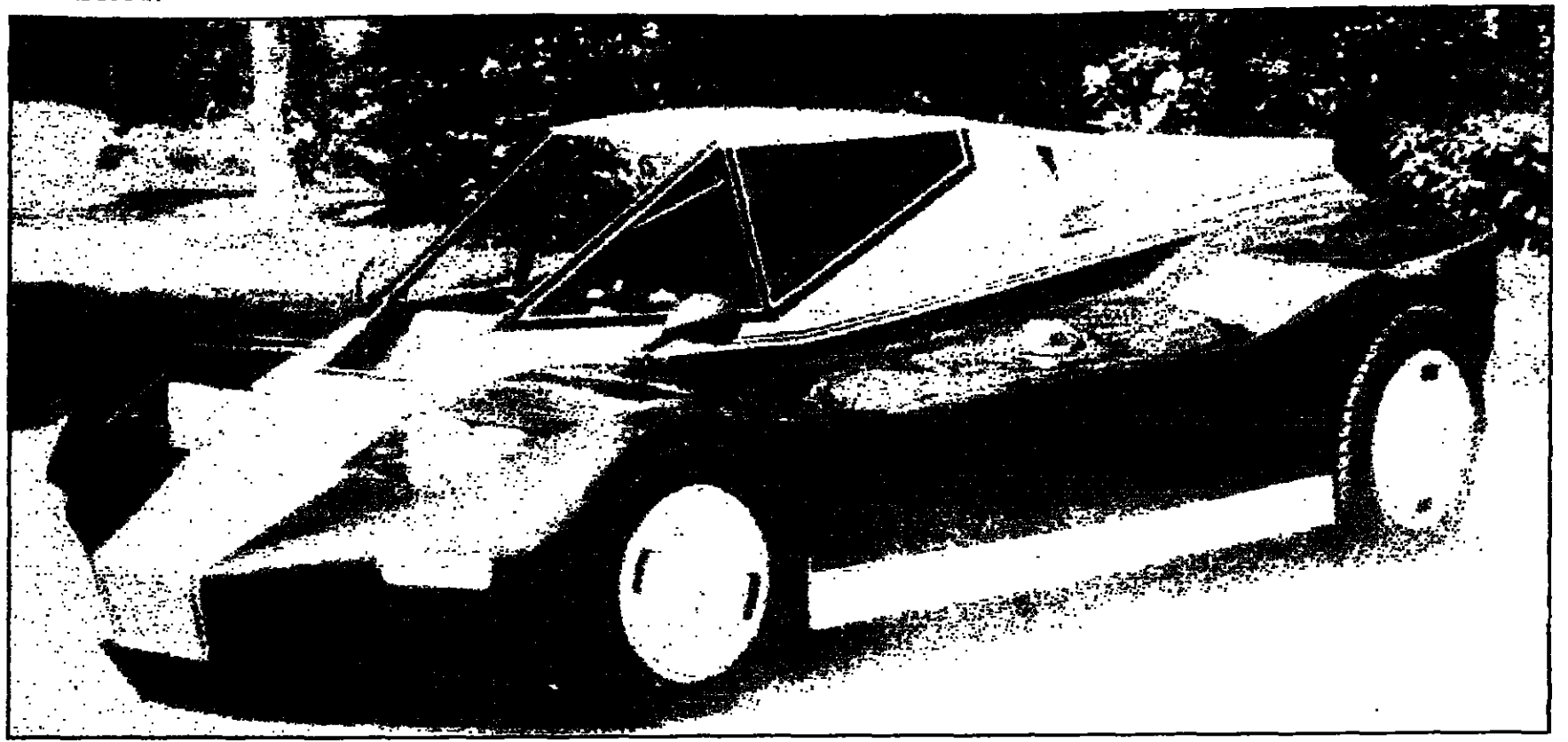
Indonesian friend, probably run along class lines. Most Indonesians are poor and the becak is inexpensive transportation. The same Tempo survey found that about half of all becak drivers earn wages of US\$1 to \$2 per day. One quarter of them make as much as \$2 to \$3 during a 15-hour day.

The becak is a favoured transport by women doing daily food shopping at poorer neighbourhood markets in alley's too narrow for cars and buses. One

elderly woman praises her becak driver for regularly carrying a sack of rice into her house — a service no bajaj driver would perform, she insists. Given such sentiments, it's not surprising the becak elimination programme has met with some resistance.

On Feb 19, Governor Wiyogo announced that a new inexpensive small, four-seat sedan would be built locally and designed to replace the becak, particularly its ability to navigate narrow streets.

An estimated 8,000 becats are still at large. The Jakarta Post reports that one policeman has been killed and several injured in altercations between police and drivers.



For £50,000 the Nelson Borzoi is ready to be driven away.

New designs

Joystick car ready for take-off

By Faith Mall

THE SLEEK, shiny, silver car looks like something out of a James Bond movie. It has a flip-top roof, racing car tyres, a digital key-in entry system, is driven by a joystick and it all came to its inventor in a dream.

This is the world's first road-legal joystick car and, according to inventor Nelson Kruschandl, he got the idea while asleep.

He told me: "I dreamt of a joystick-controlled car and woke up at 2am to write down my ideas and draw a plan of the car."

Called the Nelson Borzoi, the car costs a cool £50,000 and has been handbuilt by Nelson. It is the first time he built a motor vehicle from start to finish. And as first attempts go it's not bad.

Nelson, a former house-builder says the Borzoi is the closest a motorist will ever get to being a fighter pilot.

"It's the only car that is driven like an aircraft with a joystick instead of a steering wheel," he told me. "The accelerator, brake and steering controls are on the joystick. There are no pedals so it's easy to drive."

He says it is a prototype for future vehicles and he believes everyone will be driving joystick-operated cars in the next century.

"It's much easier driving with a joystick than a steering wheel and, once the vehicle is on the market, it will become extremely popular," he said.

He even believes that his car is so easy to drive that people can learn how to operate it in 10 minutes. "It feels more natural using a joystick which is simply pointed in the direction that you want to go, than a steering wheel which is pointed in the opposite direction."

"The car also accelerates without any fuss and there is none of this fiddling about with a gear stick to gain power. It is the ultimate driving pleasure."

The vehicle, which accelerates from 0-60mph in four seconds, is powered by a PVR 2.8 litre V8 engine and reaches a top speed of 170mph. It has one seat and sitting in the Borzoi is like being in the cockpit of an aircraft, with all the controls at your fingertips.

"There is no need to use your feet and worry about changing gear as the car has an automatic gear box. The only time you'll have to take your hands off the joystick is to start the ignition and to put on the hand brake."

Nelson hopes to have the ignition button on the joystick in his next car, the Wolverine. "I'm working on the Wolverine at the moment," he said. "It's a two-seater modified version of the Borzoi. If everything goes to plan, the car should be on the market by the end of the decade."

But so far, Nelson has been unable to interest any British car company in manufacturing his joystick vehicle. Companies aren't even prepared to fund research, he says.



Nelson Kruschandl — the inventor of the futuristic car, he calls the Nelson Borzoi.

Its inventor got the idea in his sleep — and he believes the Borzoi, which can make a motorist feel like a fighter pilot, will inspire the next century's motor designers.



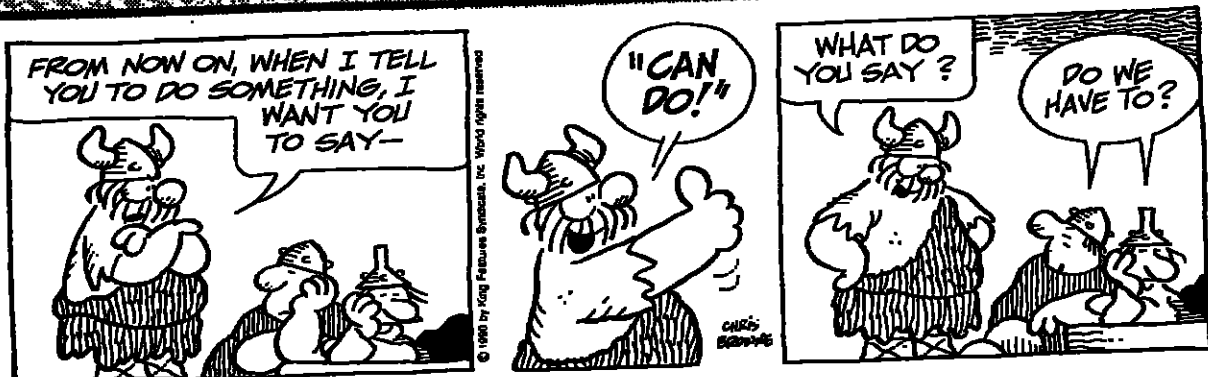
Inside the 'cockpit' shows the revolutionary joystick-control.

LEISURE

BLONDIE



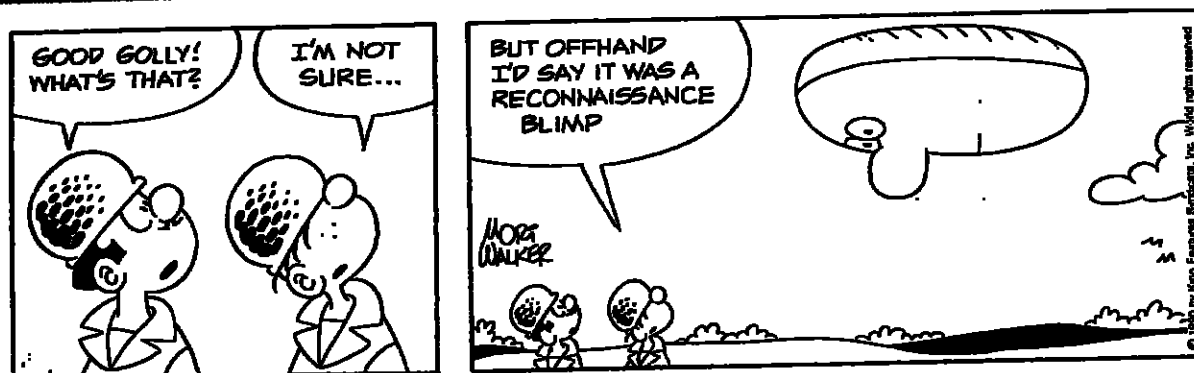
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



THE CRIMINAL MIND



BEETLEBAWNE



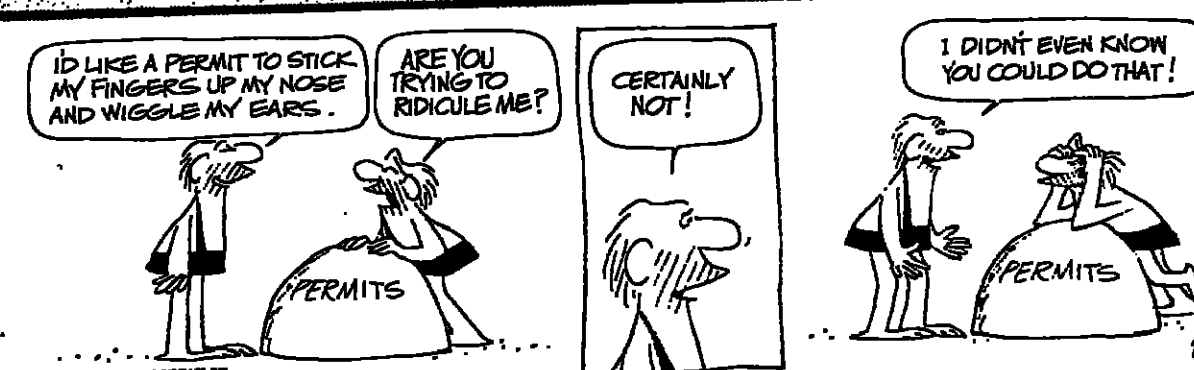
THE WIZARD OF ID



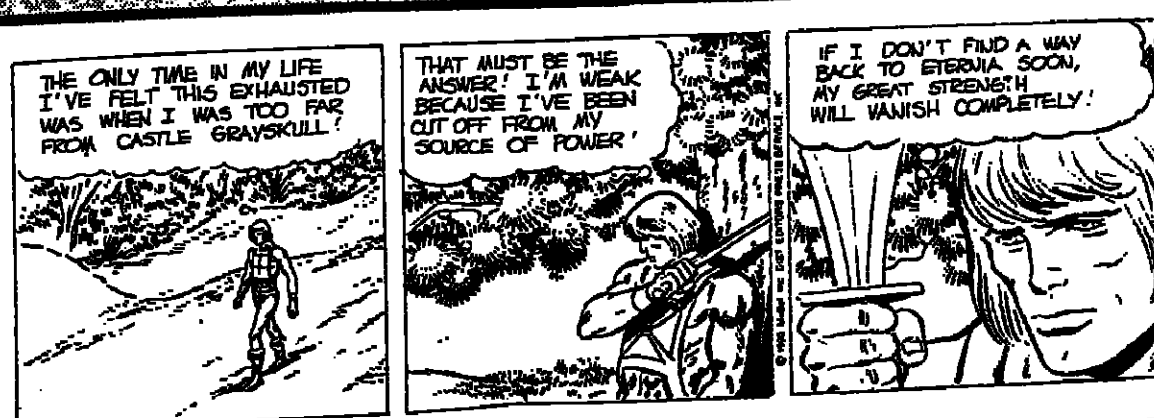
ANDY CAPP



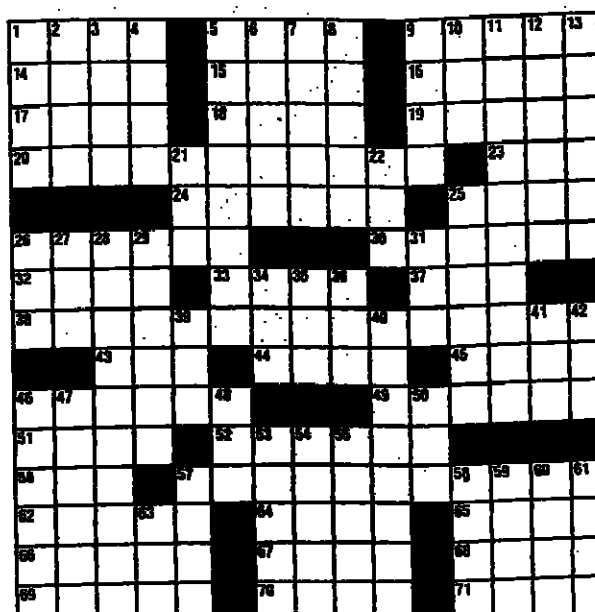
B.C. By Johnny Hart



HEMAN By G. Fortson & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 It sometimes thickens
5 Playwright Connelly
9 Paint spills
14 Vet
15 Favorite
16 "En Rose"
17 Fortune
18 Dry, in Madrid
19 Apotheosis
20 Past the worst
23 PO route, once
24 Hamstring
25 Oviedo other
26 Anatomical chamber
30 Site of Duke University
32 Tear apart
33 Babe Ruth's kingdom?
37 "Norma"
38 Where the bear went, in an old song
43 Estuary
44 Colorist
45 A's partners
46 Be there
49 Yardage gainer
51 Cheering sounds
52 Do think tank work
56 Road map abbr.
57 Passé
58 Rose oil
64 Actress Kadrova
65 On the Red
66 Not a soul
67 "— Dream, Can't I?"
68 Window in a Hitchcock title
69 From — bottom
70 RSVP-enc.
71 Benefit of a sort

DOWN

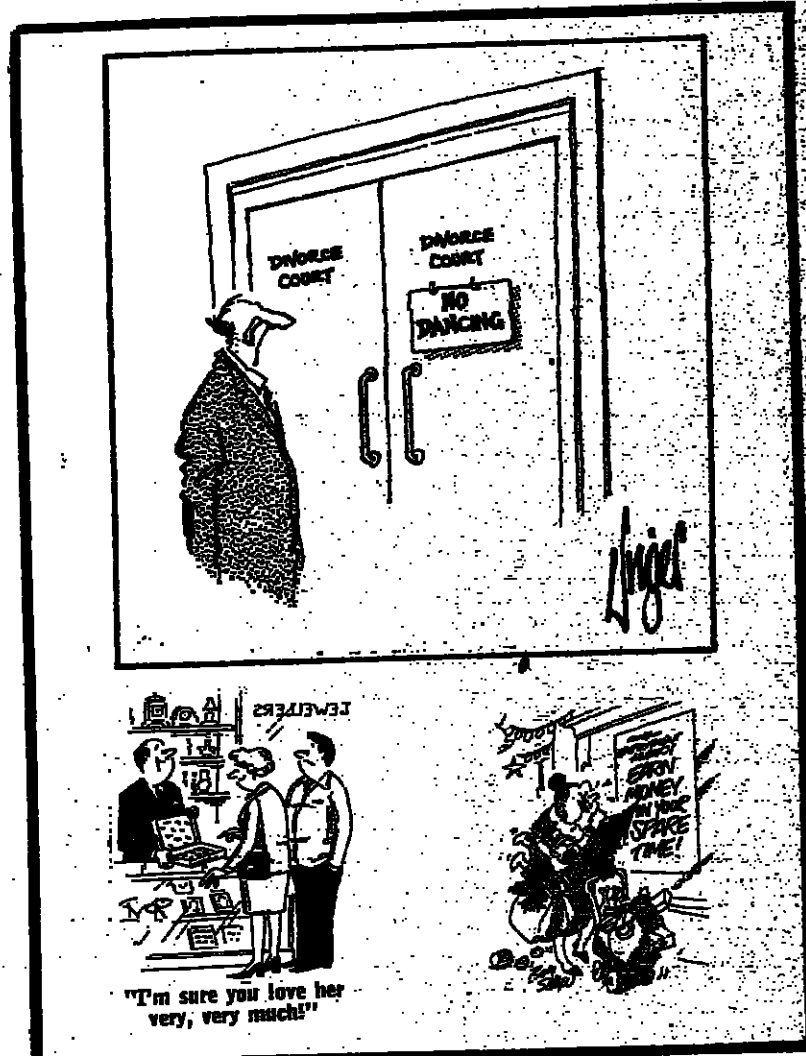
- 1 Squash
2 Half of COXVIII
3 Make goo-goo eyes
4 Row
5 Odds and ends
6 "...from — dream of peace"
7 Actor Eugene of "W"
8 Blur
9 Image on a radar screen
10 Striping
11 Like live TV
12 Former name of Nigeria's Eastern Region
13 Only now and then
21 Twitch
22 School for a future dir.
25 Declaimed
26 Magnon lead-in
27 Actress Ullmann
28 Capping the quota
29 Eagles' homes
31 Crook
34 Blend together
35 Gospel singer Grant
36 Little piggy
54 Heath
55 Reference book
57 Mountain; Comb. form
58 This takes a lot of pluck to play
59 "Is this a dagger which —"
60 Shakespearean role
61 Fling
63 Picnic pest
39 Beach acquisition
40 Carbamate product
41 Debt letters
42 Sister
46 Out-and-out
47 "The Rose —"
1955 movie
48 Math. function
50 Formerly named
53 Where to find heroes

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
CLAP SWAM LACKS
LOLA NINE LLANO
ONOR ATTU OAKEN
PIE IN THE SKY EEE
SUCH ENDOW
TAR THOR ISRAEL
ORALS LOST ALVA
POGO DUE TKOS
OMAR ASSN LEEKS
LAMEST ESSO RED
UNION IAGO
RAE SMARTCOCKIE
UNFIN LAIR ZAPS
STILE DIVE ERST
KINER TILED SLOE

COREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J7 ♥ KQ9 ♦ AQJ32 ♣ QJ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 8643 ♥ 1097 ♦ 942 ♣ KQ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A83 ♥ 10952 ♦ J97 ♣ Q83
- The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Dbl
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q42 ♥ Q1032 ♦ A95 ♣ Q14
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KJ105 ♥ 7 ♦ J753 ♣ AKJ3
What is your opening bid?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 95 ♥ AKJ853 ♦ 98 ♣ Q64
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?



YOUR STARS



You will have to make an important decision and should think about it carefully first. Avoid allowing your emotions to run away with you. Make sure you are not late when you are meeting a train or plane. Be moderate.



You should keep your wits very much about you. Do not rely on others to do things for you, instead do as much as you can for yourself. A temptation to spend as though you had all the money in the world must not be indulged. Be fair.



Make sure you are correctly dressed for the occasion and weather. Your lucky number are 7 and 22. You will not succeed in getting something for nothing. Have a good laugh at yourself and do not take things too personally. Be helpful.



You will not be able to make quite as rapid progress as you had hoped so there is no time to lose. If you think that others will always behave as you would wish them to you will be sadly disappointed. Avoid eating anything too filling. Be tactful.



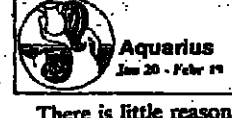
You should make sure you do not break a promise. The situation will be quite favorable but you act decisively. You will tend to forget things so do make notes or use other means of reminding yourself. Be industrious.



You will be able to do something to further your cultural interests. You will tend to tire easily so you should do what has to be done first of all. Do all you can to conserve your energies but avoid lethargy. Be reliable.



Something you had anticipated will happen, but not quite in the way you had imagined. You should show a little more goodwill towards others, even if they do not towards you. Listen more carefully to what others are saying. Be sensible.



There is little reason to be pessimistic but nor is there room for undue optimism. You are liable to get involved in something that is no concern of yours, take measures to avoid it. Your mood will have its ups and downs and you will not be at your best. Be generous.



Do not think there is anything wrong with showing your gratitude. You should make sure you do not fall down on your commitments nor should you break a promise. Try to avoid making decisions on the spur of the moment. Be sincere.



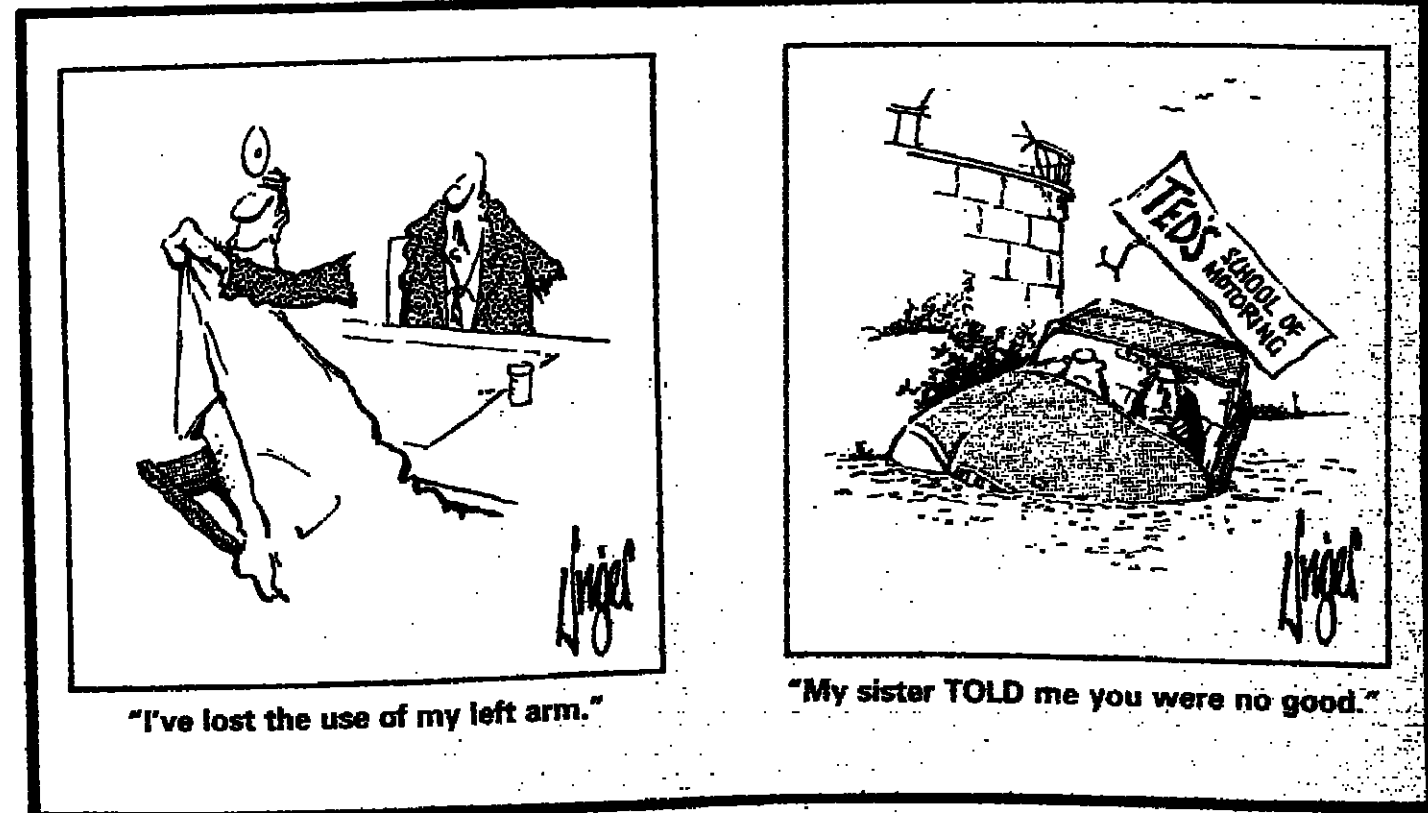
There is a room for a little more optimism. You should check your calculations, you are liable to make a mistake. Do not attempt to mix business with your personal interests. Do not allow work to become all pervasive. Be tolerant.



You are all too liable to misunderstand something you have read, so do exercise more care. Avoid letting a more acquaintance into a close secret. Do not give up too soon, instead persevere and you will succeed. Be careful.



You will have to keep your wits very much about you. Do not think that what you would like to be will always come to be. You should try to see the funny side of things without being frivolous. Be more methodical.



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SPORTS

English fans face culture clash in Sardinia

CAGLIARI, June 10. (Reuters): English soccer fans in Cagliari for the World Cup finals are finding that more stands in their way than a massive police presence.

A clash of cultures between the Englishman abroad and the Sardinian at home is as much in evidence in this conservative island capital as the 3,000-odd armed police and carabinieri here to guard against hooliganism.

Bare chests and shorts, favoured by many of the young fans strolling through the city in the heat of the Mediterranean sun, tend to be frowned on in Italy anywhere except on the beach.

Getting drunk in public, not uncommon in Britain, is also regarded by most Italians as distasteful and in addition is a punishable offence.

"When you are in a foreign country it's up to you to follow the behavioural norms of that country," a British official in Cagliari said.

The official said fans had been advised before leaving for the World Cup about local customs and sensitivities.

The message has not entirely rubbed off.

"We are here to have a good time, a few drinks and see fair play," one fan, Thomas Sheridan, 34, said after stepping off a plane from London on Friday wearing red, white and blue Union Jack shorts, a T-shirt and a red and white English banner of Saint George.

Eight hours later he was detained in a clash between bottle-throwing supporters and riot police in the first street violence of the world cup finals.

Italians savour triumph

Italy play like favourites

Schillaci scores winner

ROME, June 10. (AP): Italian sports dailies today trumpeted the national team's 1-0 World Cup victory over Austria, while some Roman shopowners assessed vandalism by roving fans during post-match celebrations.

"Italy in dilemma," Tuttosport newspaper proclaimed.

"Austria beaten after a glorious attack."

"Italy screams Schillaci. A penalty not given. Eight goals barely missed. Then Toto enters and scores," Gazzetta dello Sport headlined, referring to substitute Salvatore Schillaci's game-winning goal in the 78th minute.

"Toto takes care of it," Corriere dello Sport bannered.

"Let's hug Toto."

Celebrations erupted across Italy late yesterday after Italy won its Group A opener against the determined Austrians before 72,000 screaming fans at Rome's Olympic Stadium.

Convoys of honking cars decorated with green, red and white flags cruised cities and villages from the Alps to Sicily, and happy fans danced and shouted in the streets late into the night.

Police said some vandalism occurred in the fashionable shopping streets near the Spanish steps in central Rome.

On Via Condotti and Via Della Croce, vandals broke some shop windows. A large garbage container was set on fire on Via Cola Di Rienzo. Parked cars were damaged in Piazza Euclide, the Italian news agency Ansa reported.

"The deployment of police prevented the situation from getting out of hand," Ansa said.

Received

Twenty people were injured in various incidents following the game and received hospital treatment, the agency said.

The Italian team bus was met by joyous fans near their hotel in suburban Marino when it returned after the game with police escorts. The bus driver had to ease through the welcoming crowd lining the road for about a kilometre (half-mile), Ansa said.

Gazzetta dello Sport said the 1-0 triumph got Italy off on the right foot in its quest for an unprecedented fourth World Cup.

"All Italians were scared of this opening game — mostly the players. There was responsibility, anxiety and excitement after two years of mediocre performances. Everybody was afraid of an upset because that's not new at the World Cup. Instead (coach Azeglio) Vicini's team achieved a grandiose victory," the newspaper commented.

Heart attack

ROME, June 10. (Reuters): An Austrian supporter had a severe heart attack after Italy scored their lone goal in Saturday's World Cup match.

A hospital spokesman said on Sunday that Siegfried Kandl, 33, collapsed at Rome's Olympic Stadium soon after Italian striker Salvatore Schillaci scored in the 78th minute.

Kandl is in intensive care at the city's Villa San Pietro Hospital but is out of danger.



Schillaci (right) jumps in the air in jubilation as he is congratulated by Vialli. (Reuters wirephoto)



Italy's Luigi de Agostini (left) flies over Austria's Anton Polster. (Reuters wirephoto)

ROME, June 10. (Reuters): A 78th minute goal by substitute Salvatore Schillaci gave World Cup favourites Italy a deserved 1-0 win over Austria in their first Group A game yesterday.

A deafening crowd of 72,000 partisan fans watched wave upon wave of Italian attacks end in missed chances or brilliant saves from overworked Austrian goalkeeper Klaus Lindenberger.

But the Juventus striker, who had come on for Andrea Carnevale just four minutes before, put an end to their frustration when he headed home a pass from striker Gianluca Vialli.

Italy, fulfilling manager Azeglio Vicini's pledges to provide attacking football, could have scored a dozen times as they ran rings around the young and outclassed Austrians.

But the hosts appeared to be suffering the same goal drought that dogged them throughout their pre-tournament friendly matches.

Barely four minutes into the game, Vialli set the tone when he had a first-time shot blocked by Lindenberger.

Midfielders Roberto Donadoni, Giuseppe Giannini and Carlo Ancelotti, playing well up field, all went close in the first half.

Donadoni, heading for goal, was brought down by Andreas Herzog in the fifth minute. Giannini's 13th minute shot brought a fine diving save from Lindenberger and Ancelotti's powerful effort hit the post in the 22nd.

Impaired

Vialli, showing no sign of the calf injury that impaired his final preparations for the match, shot wide shortly afterwards.

Strike partner Andrea Carnevale wrung his hands in dismay after putting the ball high over an empty net just before halftime.

Andreas Herzog provided the

only real Austrian chance early in the second half but his shot went into the side netting.

Striker Toni Polster, ably checked by defenders Franco Baresi and Giuseppe Bergome was reduced to desperate long-range shots with little chance of success.

It was Schillaci's first goal for his country in only his second international appearance.

The young Sicilian had played Second Division football until last season, but he burst into the top rung with 15 goals for Juventus.

Vicini said: "It was a great way to start the World Cup. Playing at home gives us added responsibility to do well."

He said the team still needed some fine tuning but that could be done as the tournament progressed.

Complained

"Even if we had not won I could not have complained about how my team played," he said.

Italy have met Austria twice previously in the World Cup and both matches — a semifinal in Milan in 1934 and a second round match in Buenos Aires in 1978 — ended in 1-0 wins for them.

They won their last game against Austria in March, 1989 also with the same scoreline.

Austria's manager Josef Hickersberger said if a team had to lose it was no bad thing to lose against Italy.

They were very impressive in the way they dictated the pace of the game, but I thought we had them under control until 20 minutes from the end and I felt we could get a draw," he said.

Polster said Italy had finished poorly and could not afford to do so against tougher opponents.

"But they will be very hard to beat and they can certainly play better," he added.

Dutch confident of win

PALERMO, June 10. (Reuters): The Netherlands open their World Cup campaign against outsiders Egypt on Tuesday confident of victory but alive to the dangers of taking their opponents too lightly.

The European champions are expected to cruise past the Egyptians but Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker is determined to avoid complacency among his players and is using Cameroon's shock win over Argentina to reinforce his message.

"We talk of smaller soccer countries but these are just countries we have less contact with. All World Cup nations have learnt to defend and are well-prepared physically," Beenhakker said.

"You can't say a match is easy before you've actually played it," he added.

Beenhakker has confidence in a team featuring outstanding players such as Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten, which many believe can lift the Cup now that captain Ruud Gullit has returned after a serious knee injury.

"We've got class in the team. It's now a question of going out and showing it on the pitch," he said. "But I can't say there won't be an upset as players are human," he added.

Egypt, appearing in the finals for the first time since 1934, have prepared meticulously for the Group F games where they will also meet England and Ireland.

Coach Mahmoud El Gohari has had his squad together for

the past six months and played 12 friendly internationals. Results have improved with recent away wins over Scotland and Czechoslovakia.

"I'm very happy with our preparations. We've worked very hard for a long time and now we're ready," he said.

"Of course I'm worried about playing the Dutch but then they're a great team and any coach would be nervous about facing them, not just me," he added.

Egypt's strength is a defence which conceded just two goals in eight qualifying matches, with goalkeeper Ahmed Shubair highly-rated. Scoring goals has proved more of a problem, with Egypt finding the target just seven times in their 12 warm-up games.

But El-Gohari promised his team would not sit back and try to frustrate the Dutch with a blanket defence.

"We hope to get the balance right between defence and attack and play good football," he said.

His only injury worry is striker Hossam Hassan, whose twin brother Ibrahim plays right-back. Hassan was withdrawn from training yesterday with a leg strain but says he will be fit.

The Dutch have selection problems in midfield where Erwin Koeman is struggling for fitness after a knee operation and Jan Wouters and Gerald Vanenburg both have ankle strains, with Wouters looking the more doubtful of the two.

Richard Witschge will come in



Hossam Hassan

if Koeman is declared unfit while Vanenburg will probably return to partner Gullit and Rijkaard in a four-man midfield if he recovers and Wouters is ruled out.

Probable teams:

Netherlands: Hans van Breukelen, Berry van Aerle, Graeme Ruitjes, Adri van Tiggelen, Ronald Koeman, Jan Wouters (Gerald Vanenburg), Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit, Erwin Koeman (Richard Witschge), Wim Kieft, Marco van Basten.

Egypt: Ahmed Shubair, Ibrahim Hassan, Hisham Yassin, Hani Ramzi, Rabie Yassin, Magdi Abdel-Ghani, Ismail Youssef, Ahmed Ramzi, Taber Abu-Zeid, Hossam Hassan, Gamal Abdel-Hamid.

S. Korea need win in opener

VERONA, June 10. (Reuters): Underdogs South Korea need a win against Belgium on Tuesday to have any realistic chance of qualifying in a group rated the toughest in the World Cup first round.

"If we want to go through, we have to win at least one match the one against Belgium," South Korea's coach Lee Hae-taik said. Belgium will be thinking the toughest in the World Cup first round.

Lee said he was also aiming for a draw in one of the two other first-round Group E matches against Uruguay and Spain. That should be enough to take the Asians to the second round for the first time in three World Cup attempts.

He said he had the most respect for Spain whom he described as semifinal candidates, but he knew Belgium would not be a walkover.

His hope was that Belgium would run true to form, rising to the occasion when forced into the role of underdogs but faltering against weaker opponents.

Belgium's national coach Guy Thys will not be complacent against South Korea.

Four years ago, the Koreans went out in the first round after a heroic battle against Italy which they lost 3-2. This time they hoped through the qualifying round with an impressive 30-1 goal difference.



Vialli and Austria's Andreas Herzog go for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bilardo to plug defensive hole

MILAN, June 10. (Reuters): Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo said yesterday he planned to plug a defensive hole which appeared during the world champions' shock 1-0 defeat by Cameroon in the opening match of the World Cup finals.

But Bilardo, a man who has always kept faith with his brand of soccer, is not expected to make drastic team changes.

After the defeat in Friday's Group B clash in Milan, he said after there were areas needing attention but maintained that Argentina's approach to the game had been the right one.

"We had a hole on the right (of the defence) We'll try to find a solution to this," Bilardo said.

"The match was played the way we expected and had discussed together," he added. But Argentina became confused when Cameroon regrouped after having a man sent off early in the second half.

Bilardo insisted he would put the result behind him and continue to work on perfecting his team. "Never lose much time thinking about the match and what's done," he said.

The coach put the world champions' poor performance down to the squad's lack of time to work together and assimilate his often elaborate instructions.

Bilardo has complained for months that he had little time to work with his full squad because they were dotted about the globe, the result of a constant drain on the impoverished domestic game.

There is a strong lobby back in Argentina for a return to the country's traditional South American style of attacking soccer as preached by former national team boss Cesar Menotti, with selection concentrated on players in the domestic league.

Better

Menotti has said the only Argentine player abroad who is better than any back home is captain Diego Maradona.

Daniel Passarella, captain of Menotti's 1978 World Cup winning side, who has just guided River Plate to the First Division title in his first season as a coach, would be a popular choice for the job Bilardo will, soon be leaving vacant.

In the meantime, Bilardo may still profit from the defeat against Cameroon, now that his side has slipped out of the favourites, a role that has often appeared to burden his teams.

Belgium, the last of the 24 World Cup finalists to arrive in Italy, are determined not to be the first to leave.

The Belgian squad, seeded in Group E, arrived at Villafranca airport near Verona yesterday just three days before their first match, against South Korea.

Sweden can clinch Cup: Charlton

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, June 10. (AP): Ireland manager Jack Charlton said yesterday he thought Sweden had the skill to be a surprise winner of the 1990 World Cup.

"I've always said this World Cup is well-balanced with a lot of good teams," Charlton told reporters at the Irish Hotel 45 kilometres (about 30 miles) from Cagliari. "It would not surprise me that a side like Sweden could win it. They have many qualities."

Charlton, however, is not underestimating the chances of his own squad. He believes in its ability but also knows its limitations.

Ireland takes on England tomorrow in the Group F opener. The Netherlands and Egypt are the other squads in the group.

"We've got to go out there on Monday and do a job. People say that if you get three points you could reach the next stage. I don't see it that way. Every match is a battle," said Charlton, an Englishman and winner of a 1966 World Cup medal.

"If we get a good result against England then we know what we have to do in the games with Egypt and Holland. It's as simple as that," he said.

Barco leads Colombian celebrations

BOGOTA, June 10. (Reuters): An emotional President Virgilio Barco led Colombia yesterday in celebrating the national soccer team's 2-0 victory over United Arab Emirates, their first ever win in the finals of a World Cup.

The win in Bologna delighted soccer-mad Colombians and gave them a welcome respite from the relentless bombings and killings of a 10-month-old war against powerful cocaine barons.

"We watched the match, we lived through the great triumph. Congratulations to Bernardo Redin and Pibe Carlos Valderrama for their two goals and to the whole team. Colombia is happy," a clearly moved Barco told local radio Caracol, referring to Colombia's two goal scorers.

The 68-year-old president, who leaves office in August after leading an unprecedented crackdown on Colombia's drug barons, said the win showed the quality of Colombia's players and gave a glimpse of future victories.

Watched

Barco, speaking from the Caribbean resort of Cartagena, said he watched the match on television with four cabinet ministers and other top government and army officials. He spoke to goalkeeper Rene Higuita on the radio and congratulated him for not letting in any goals.

Nearly all Colombians were glued to television sets or radios for the eagerly anticipated match, Colombia's first appearance in the World Cup finals for 28 years. Colombia had never before won a match in the finals, losing two games and drawing one in their only previous appearance in Chile in 1962.

The normally busy centre of Bogota was virtually deserted as people stayed at home to watch the game. After the match, carloads of fans waving the national flag drove through the city cheering the team's victory as if they had won the tournament.

The match must have pleased president-elect Cesar Gaviria, a keen soccer fan, who said on the eve of the match that Colombia needed at least a 2-0 win to increase their chances of going through to the second round.



Redin (right) shouts as he runs towards the stands after scoring Colombia's first goal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Valderrama (left) goes for the ball against UAE's Ibrahim Meer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romania score second World Cup upset



Romanian goalkeeper Silviu Lung celebrates his team's second goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

ROME, June 10. (Reuters): Marius Lacatus scored both goals to lift Romania to a 2-0 win over the Soviet Union in a second major upset at the World Cup yesterday.

The speedy Romanians, taking their cue from last year's anti-communist revolution back home, exposed the flat-footed Soviet defence and turned the form book upside down again.

Cameroon beat defending champions Argentina 1-0 in the World Cup opener on Friday in one of the most sensational reverses of the 60-year-old tournament.

Lacatus outflanked the cover on the right for the first goal in the 40th minute. He then drilled home a second-half penalty to sink a Soviet squad showing little of the spark that earned a place in the 1988 European Championships final.

Colombia also worked hard for a 2-0 win over the tenacious but ragged United Arab Emirates, playing in the finals for the first time.

Giant-killing exploits at the 14th World Cup finals rang alarm bells among other fancied teams.

Franz Beckenbauer, whose West German team face their "underdog" test against the UAE next Friday, warned against complacency.

"These countries know they can make a name for themselves and even become famous," he said. "They will do everything to show they can play good football."

Leo Beenhakker, coach of the Dutch European champions, cautioned: "Cameroon confirmed what we've known for a while — there are no more weak countries."

But US coach Bob Gasler sensed that fear of outsiders could unsettle Czechoslovakia when the two teams meet in their opening Group A match today.

"It has had a very positive effect and we can draw strength from the fact that an outsider was successful," Gasler said.

Off the field, authorities ordered the expulsion of four English soccer fans and 14 were charged with public order offences under a massive crackdown against potential violence.

Two fans were sent across the French border early yesterday and two others were escorted to the frontier later in the day.

One of them, Andrew Garner, 22, was on an English hooligan blacklist sent to Italy to help in the security effort.

King offers Douglas \$20m to stop purse bid

NEW YORK, June 10, (UPI) Promoter Don King, in an 11th-hour attempt to prevent unprecedented purse bidding on a heavyweight title fight, yesterday offered champion James "Buster" Douglas \$20 million to fight top-ranked contender Evander Holyfield.

Don King Productions spokesman John Solberg said Douglas' manager,

John Johnson, received the offer at 6:30 EDT — 21 1/2 hours before the World Boxing Association was scheduled to throw Douglas' title defense open to all promoters because ongoing suits between the champion and King had failed to produce a bout agreement.

"Don King Productions hereby offers Mr Douglas a purse of \$20 million plus

50 per cent of gross revenues in excess of \$34 million for the Douglas-Holyfield bout. For these purposes, gross revenues shall mean gross revenues received by Don King Productions less production costs, taxes and related expenses.

"If this offer is acceptable to you, please let me know by noon (Sunday).

We are prepared to enter into an agreement on the foregoing basis immediately."

It had been expected that the sides would try to settle before the bid and trial — scheduled for New York June 26 — but talks in Las Vegas Friday night broke down after three hours.

Orioles trounce Yankees

BALTIMORE, June 10, (AP) Randy Milligan went to the plate looking for a piece of history. He didn't get his fourth homer of the game, but he still had plenty of reasons to celebrate.

Milligan had home runs in his first three at bats and finished with a career-high six RBIs yesterday, and the Baltimore Orioles handed the New York Yankees their eighth straight loss, 10-1. He got one more at-bat, in the seventh inning, but walked on a 3-2 pitch.

Milligan's three-run homer off Chuck Cary (2-2) highlighted a six-run first inning that sent the Orioles in their way to their fourth straight victory and seventh in eight games as they reached the 500 mark for the first time since April 24.

Mariners 5, Tigers 2
Rookie Russ Swan pitched seven no-hit innings and allowed two hit in eight innings for his first Major League baseball victory as Seattle beat Detroit.

Swan, acquired from the San Francisco Giants on May 24, lost his no-hit bid when Cecil Fielder led off the eighth inning with a line-drive single to left.

Tracy Jones followed with a single but Lloyd Moseby grounded into a double play and Ed Romero flied to right. Mike Schooner pitched the ninth, allowing a two-run homer to Tony Phillips.

Red Sox 11, Indians 6
Ellis Burks had six RBIs on three hits, including a homer, and Dana Kiecker got his first Major League victory as Boston won its seventh straight game.

Burks singled home two runs in the first, homered to lead off a three-run sixth inning and doubled home three more in the eighth as the Red Sox handed the Indians their sixth straight loss. Kiecker, a 29-year-old rookie (1-2), allowed a run on three hits, struck out seven and walked one in six innings.

Jerry Reed came on the eighth after Cory Snyder's three-run homer off Dennis Lamp to record his second save. Sergio Valdez (2-2) took the loss.

Results

American League		
Boston	1	Cleveland 6
Oakland	5	Kansas City 0
Baltimore	10	N.Y. Yankees 2
Seattle	5	Detroit 1
Chicago W.S.	4	Minnesota 2
Toronto	4	Milwaukee 3
California	8	Texas 3
National League		
Chicago Cubs	4	Philadelphia 3
N.Y. Mets	9	Pittsburgh 8
Atlanta	5	San Francisco 1
Montreal	3	St. Louis 1
Houston	4	Cincinnati 1
Los Angeles	5	San Diego 4

Kiwis all out for 208

England four for one



Philip DeFreitas

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 10, (Reuters) Rain severely disrupted the third day of the first cricket Test between England and New Zealand, restricting play to less than four hours yesterday.

England paceman Phillip DeFreitas picked up three wickets before the rain came yesterday morning to return his best Test figures of five for 53 as New Zealand were dismissed for 208 in their first innings.

Richard Hadlee struck back immediately for New Zealand, trapping England captain Graham Gooch lbw for a duck with the first delivery of the innings.

The rain, which has blighted the match and restricted Friday's play to 24 minutes, began to fall again and when play was abandoned after tea England were four for one in reply.

DeFreitas belied his modest Test record with another excellent performance as seam bowling as New Zealand resumed at 189 for six, starting the run when he had Thursday's nightwatchman Martin Snedden caught by Gooch at second slip for a duck.

Hadlee, who received a warm welcome from the Trent Bridge crowd in recognition of his distin-

guished service for Nottinghamshire, soon followed, playing on to DeFreitas for nought.

John Bracewell played confidently, hitting two boundaries before he was caught by Gooch off Gladstone Small for 28.

DeFreitas wrapped up the innings when he bowled Danny Morrison for a duck to record his second five-wicket haul in a Test match.

DeFreitas, the 24-year-old Lancashire paceman who has so often disappointed at international level, said later: "Let's hope there's more to come."

This, his 16th Test, could prove to be a real turning point for him.

"It was 'Daffy's' best bowling performance for England in terms of his consistency and the movement he achieved off the pitch," team manager Mickie Stewart said. "Now he's got to do it on a regular basis."

DeFreitas resurrected a waning international career by performing creditably during the final two Tests of last winter's Caribbean tour when standing in for injured seamer Angus Fraser.

"Those matches were a great boost for me," he admitted. "And I came into this Test feeling con-

fident after taking six wickets for Lancashire against Sussex earlier this week."

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings (over- night 189 for six)	
T. Franklin b Malcolm	33
A. Jones c Stewart b Malcolm	8
M. Crowe b DeFreitas	59
M. Gnatcatch b Hemmings	1
M. Frost c Russell b DeFreitas	26
M. Snedden c Gooch b DeFreitas	0
J. Bracewell c Gooch b Small	28
R. Hadlee b DeFreitas	0
I. Smith not out	2
D. Morrison lbw b DeFreitas	0
Extras (b-1 lb-10 w-1)	12
Total	208

Fall of wickets 1-16 2-75 3-110 4-121 5-170 6-174 7-181 8-181 9-203

Bowling: Small 29-9-49-2, Malcolm 19-7-48-2, Hemmings 19-6-47-1, DeFreitas 22-6-53-5.

ENGLAND first innings

G. Gooch lbw b Hadlee 0 |

M. Atherton not out 3 || A. Stewart not out | 1 |
| Extras | 0 |
| **Total** | **4** |

Fall of wickets 1-0

Bowling to date: Hadlee 1.1-0-4-1, Morrison 1-0-0-0.

To bat: Allan Lamb, Robin Smith, Neil Fairbrother, Jack Russell, Philip DeFreitas, Gladstone Small, Eddie Hemmings, Devon Malcolm.

Rain hits county cricket

LONDON, June 10, (Reuters) Northamptonshire batsmen Nigel Felton and David Capel both hit centuries on the first day of a three-day county cricket championship match against Glamorgan yesterday, but rain disrupted most matches.

Felton made 122 and Capel 113. They added 118 for the fourth wicket in only 21 overs as the home side piled up 350 for eight declared. Glamorgan were 16 for no wicket in reply.

Former England all-rounder Capel scored his runs off 118 balls and hit three sixes and 16 fours. He took 20 off one over from off-spinner Nigel Cowley.

Mark Frost was the pick of the Glamorgan bowlers and finished with four for 82.

Somerset captain Chris Tavare scored an unbeaten 77 off his former county Kent at Canter-

bury as his side moved to 200 for two off 61 overs after rain prevented play for three-and-a-half hours.

Somerset openers Jimmy Cook (36) and Jonathan Hardy (42) compiled an 85-run first-wicket partnership before both were dismissed off successive deliveries.

Fifth-placed Warwickshire's hopes of a victory which could take them to the top of the League — the top three counties are inactive — were also thwarted by rain. Only 21 overs were possible in their match against Essex, who were 57 for one when play was abandoned.

There was no play in the matches between fourth-placed Lancashire and Gloucestershire or Yorkshire and Surrey.

Britain scrape through

NAPIER, New Zealand, June 10, (Reuters) Britain's Rugby League team scraped a 23-22 win against a President's XIII today in the first match of their New Zealand tour.

The tourists, who scored three tries to the home side's four, snatched victory with a last-minute drop goal from Martin Dermott.

Welshman Jonathan Davies, a convert to the professional code from rugby union, went on a spree with a try, two penalty goals and three conversions.

His performance revived

memories of his last game in Napier two years ago when he scored 21 points for the Welsh Rugby union side against the Hawkes Bay.

British coach Malcolm Reilly wasn't entirely happy with the performance against a President's XIII including five current Test players and several others hungry for international recognition.

"It wasn't as convincing a win as I would have liked, frankly," said Reilly.

Yachtswomen safe

CANBERRA, June 10, (UPI) — Two Australian women adrift for four days in their disabled 36-foot (11-m) sailboat were rescued off the Queensland coast today by the crew of a Taiwanese freighter, officials said.

Jeanie Talley and Joy-Beth Smith, of Crescent City, Florida, were in good condition when taken aboard the freighter from their crippled yacht Banshee, said Stephen McElhinney of the Canberra Sea Safety Centre.

One of the women might have suffered a broken leg, he said.

Sutton takes Milk Race

LIVERPOOL, England, June 10, (AP) Australian Shane Sutton won the Milk Race yesterday, maintaining his two-minute-and-second lead over the last of 12 stages in the 1,150 (1,900-kilometre) race.

Sutton's father died five days ago and he said it was on his mind as he neared the finish.

"I just thought about dad with two laps to go, and I started 'filling up,'" Sutton said. "I just wanted to win for him."

Rob Holden, who is a Banana-Falcon teammate of Sutton, finished second with Miloslav Vasecek of Czechoslovakia third, 2:41 behind the winner.

Belgian professional Jan Bogaert won yesterday's 12th stage, his fifth leg victory which earned him a total of \$8,500.

Bogaert edged Joey McLoughlin of Britain and Frank Augustin of East Germany in a large pack to win the stage.

The stage finish was disputed over bumping as the pack neared the finish line, but after officials consulted race referee Jack Watson upheld the result.

"It was a good clean sprint," Watson. "If there was any chipping it did not affect the sprint."



Jockey Michael Kinane whips Go and Go (right) towards the finish line. (Reuters wirephoto)

Go and Go finishes first

ELMONT, New York, June 10, (Reuters) Irish-bred Go and Go flew here on the cheap this week but there was nothing low-rent about his eight-length victory in the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes yesterday.

Go and Go justified his name as he came down the stretch and whisked by Thirty Six Red and Baron de Vaux who had been battling each other for most of the race over the fast dirt track.

Thirty Six Red, a 7-2 choice known for his early speed, and Baron de Vaux, a 65-1 heavy longshot, exchanged lead place several times in the race and continued to battle each other up to the stretch when Go and Go ran away from them.

Thirty Six Red finished second and Baron de Vaux was third in the 122nd running of the race, the third leg of the Triple Crown series for three-year-olds.

Kentucky Derby winner Unbridled, the even-money favourite, was fourth in the nine-horse field, more than 12 lengths off the pace. Unbridled appeared ready to challenge going into the last turn, but did not have enough left and fell back.

The winner left them all behind as he headed straight for the finish — a trip that contrasted with his earlier itinerary.

Go and Go travelled for 20 hours this week just to get here. He was shipped to New York through Paris because that was the cheapest flight available.

"He went down to Shannon (Ireland) in a box, flew from Shannon to Paris because it was the cheapest way to go and he got a lift on a cargo plane to here," Go and Go trainer Dermot Weld said.



Go and Go (left) pulls around Thirty Six Red (Centre) and Baron de Vaux (Reuters wirephoto)

Unbridled tempered his disappointment by picking up a fair consolation prize — a million-dollar bonus for best finishes in the Triple Crown races, which also includes the Preakness.

Unbridled beat Summer Squall in the Derby, but lost to him in the Preakness. Summer Squall did not race yesterday.

Including yesterday's fourth-place finish, Unbridled has finished off the board in just two of his 13 career races.

Unbridled ran without the diuretic lasix — claimed by some to reduce bleeding from the lungs. Carl Nafziger, his trainer, said after the race that Unbridled had not

bled.

Go and Go, the second Irish-bred winner of the Belmont after Cavan in 1958, travelled the fast dirt track in two minutes 27 and 1/5 seconds.

Go and Go won \$411,600. Second place was worth \$150,920, third \$82,320 and fourth \$41,160.

Go and Go will be flown back home on Tuesday but is scheduled to return in August for the million-dollar Travers Stakes in Saratoga.

Go and Go's jockey Michael Kinane, the Irish champion jockey since 1984, said he kept his horse under a tight rein because Go and Go appeared anxious and Kinane feared he would burn out in the early stages of the race.

Da Silva wins again

CHIBA, Japan, June 10, (Reuters) Olympic bronze medalist Robson da Silva of Brazil stormed to his second sprint triumph by winning the 100 metres in the Japanese Athletics Championships today.

Da Silva raced to victory in 10.49 seconds, only 0.01 seconds ahead of runner-up Shinji Aoto, Japan's top sprinter.

It was the first time a foreign sprinter won the 100 and 200 metres in Japan's national championships since Italy's Sergio Ottolina took both events in 1962.

"I feel very happy to win both races because my leg injury did not affect my running," said Da Silva.

The Brazilian, who took yesterday's 200 metres by a narrow 0.03, had been suffering from the injury when he won the 200 metres in 209 seconds flat in last September's World Cup in Barcelona.

Kenya's Thomas Osano also completed a double victory in the men's long distance events as he won the 10,000 metres in 28 minutes 28.49 seconds.

Osano took yesterday's 5,000 metres in 13:44.83.

Britain's John Herbert leapt 16.56 metres to capture the triple jump while compatriot David Nelson won the 110 metres hurdles in 14.06 seconds.

Frenchman sets sailing record

PLYMOUTH, England, June 10, (Reuters) Frenchman Serge Madoc broke his own transatlantic sailing record by more than 17 hours yesterday.

Sailing the Catamaran Jet Services V, Madoc and a crew of four arrived at the lizard — southernmost point of the British mainland — just six days, 13 hours, three minutes and 32 seconds after leaving New York.

Madoc set the previous record of seven days, six hours and 12 minutes in 1988, also in Jet Services V. But then he had a crew of seven and he has since trimmed almost half a tonne in weight from the yacht.

Harris, Kingdom win

MADRID, Spain, June 10, (AP) Danny Harris of the United States won the men's 400-metre hurdles and his countryman Roger Kingdom took the 110-metre hurdle yesterday at the eighth Madrid International Track Meet.

Harris' 47.77-second victory was the second-best mark of the year and easily beat Jamaican Winthrop Graham, second in 48.23, and Spain's Jose Alonso Valero, third at 50.87.

Three years ago on the same Vallehermoso stadium track, Harris ran a 47.56 to defeat by 0.13 Olympic gold-medal winner Edwin Moses and snap the latter's decade-long, 122-race winning streak.

Two-time Olympic gold-medal winner Kingdom was slowed by a headwind and finished in 13.60, ahead of Renaldo Nehemiah of the United States, who ran a 13.68. Carlos Sala of Spain was third in 14.11.

Raymond Stewart of Jamaica beat Thomas Jefferson of the United States in the 100 metres, finishing in 10.27 — .13 seconds ahead of Jefferson and Spaniard Javier Arques, who was awarded third with the same time.

Another Jamaican, Bert Cameron, took the 400-metre event with a 45.38 finish, more than a second ahead of Innocent Egbunike of Nigeria, 46.64, and Antonio Sanchez of Spain, 46.70.

In the women's competition, Jamaica's Merlene Ottey ran a 11.06 to win the 100 metres, beating Spain's Sandra Myers by .34 seconds and Cuba's Liliana Allen by .49.

Ana Fidelia Quirot of Cuba won the 400-metres in 51.24. Spaniard Cristina Perez finished second at 53.06 and her compatriot Blanca Lacambra third at 54.00.

Morocco's Ibrahim Boutaib, the Olympic champion in 10,000 metres, dominated the 3,000-metre race, winning it in 7:52.55, while Britain's Paul Larkin came in third at 7:54.53.

In the 800-metre race, Kenyans swept the top three.

Stefan Ole-Marai won in 1:45.35, with Lucas Sang and Nixon Kipkotch, finishing second and third in 1:46.37 and 1:46.60.

Sweden's star high-jumper Patrik Sjoberg, back from an Achilles tendon operation, won his event by clearing the 2.30-metre (7-foot, 6 1/2-inch) mark in his third try. West German Dietmar Mogenburg was second at 2.26 metres (7-5) and Spain's Arturo Ortiz third at 2.23 metres (7-3 3/4).

Gray defeats Barbosa

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 10, (Reuters) Battling driving rain and unseasonably cool temperatures, American track star Johnny Gray easily beat Jose Barbosa of Brazil in the men's 800-metre race yesterday at the annual Harry Jerome International Track Classic in Swangard Stadium.

Gray, the world's six-ranked 800-metre runner breezed to victory in the relatively slow time of 1:47.21, eight-tenths of a second faster than Barbosa, ranked fifth for the distance.

Kenya's Sammy Koskei, who has run the second fastest 800-metre ever, placed a distant seventh in the eight-man field.

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Sportsman Co.



Seles holds out her arms in joy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seles giggles all the way to the bank

PARIS, June 10. (Reuters): Tennis was the last thing on Monica Seles' mind last night. The newly crowned 16-year-old French Open women's champion was far more interested in the fruits of her success.

"I'm going to ask my parents tonight if I can have a Lamborghini," giggled the happy Yugoslav, before revealing

she hoped to fly to Italy today to watch her native country play in the World Cup finals.

Seles' delight will be shared by her bank manager. The first prize of almost \$300,000 she received for her 7-6 6-4 victory over Graf means she will top \$1 million in career earnings at Wimbledon later this month.

Among a rash of statistics, she is the youngest player in over a century to win a Grand Slam tournament, the first player in two years to beat Steffi Graf in consecutive matches and the first Yugoslav woman to win in Paris for 13 years.

Her progress has even astounded her 56-year-old father Karoly, who has

doubled as his daughter's coach since her split with previous mentor Nick Bollettieri.

Seles Senior, a talented cartoonist, revealed that his precocious offspring has always been ahead of her time.

"She was eight and a half when she won the 12-year-old category in

Yugoslavia. Then she didn't even know how to count points... at best she knew more or less when she was leading in a set," recalled the proud father.

"I think some coaches and parents put pressure on young players. I never asked her why she lost. I never put pressure on her. Maybe that's why she is winning now and is happy."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Showbiz stars

RAPALLO, Italy, June 10. (Reuters): Film star Sean Connery and pop legend Rod Stewart plan to add their voices to the fans roaring for Scotland at the World Cup. The two Scots, who are staying at a luxury hotel near Scotland's training camp at Rapallo, will join the crowd at the team's opening match against Costa Rica in Genoa tomorrow.

Stadler wins

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 10. (AP): Craig Stadler of the United States shot a final round of 11-under-par 61, breaking the course record by three strokes, to win the \$650,000 Scandinavian Enterprise Open today.

Police hostility

CAGLIARI, June 10. (Reuters): English soccer supporters today blamed police hostility for creating tension in Sardinia and said World Cup fans were being unjustly persecuted.

Italian midfielder

MARINO, Italy, June 10. (Reuters): Italian midfielder Carlo Ancelotti, injured in Italy's 1-0 win over Austria yesterday, will miss Thursday's World Cup match against the United States.

Players fined

ROME, June 10. (Reuters): The two Cameroon players sent off in the opening World Cup match against Argentina have been fined and will miss the next Group B game against Romania. Fifa announced today.

Visit trimmed

ROME, June 10. (Reuters): Pope John Paul II trimmed a visit to a Rome parish to allow soccer-crazy youngsters to get home in time to watch Italy's opening World Cup match against Austria last night.

Cup trophy

ROME, June 10. (Reuters): Soccer-loving Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti will present the World Cup trophy to the winners after the final on July 8, officials said yesterday.

Belgian goalkeeper

VERONA, June 10. (Reuters): Belgian goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme said yesterday Fifa had given him the go-ahead to wear sunglasses during World Cup matches — provided the referee approves.

Uruguayan striker

VERONA, June 10. (Reuters): Belgian coach Guy Thys believes Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa could be the outstanding player of the World Cup.

Sheehan ahead

WILMINGTON, Delaware, June 10. (Reuters): Pat Sheehan shot a three-under-par 68 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead into the final round of the \$650,000 McDonald's championship at Du Pont Country Club.

Fans celebrate

CAGLIARI, June 10. (Reuters): Italian and English fans celebrated together last night after Italy's 1-0 victory over Austria in the World Cup. In the Via Roma in Cagliari, supporters sang, chanted and danced in what witnesses said was a friendly atmosphere.

Irish chief

CAGLIARI, June 10. (Reuters): The head of Ireland's soccer federation said yesterday that security in Sardinia was creating an atmosphere of "terror" which would encourage violence among soccer hooligans.

Uruguay player

MANTUA, Italy, June 10. (Reuters): Uruguay midfielder Santiago Ostolaza will not recover from a thigh injury in time to face Spain in the World Cup on Wednesday.

Narrow win

WINDHOEK, June 10. (Reuters): Wales had to stave off a fiery, late onslaught as they ran out narrow 3-2 winners against Namibia in the second rugby union Test yesterday.

Lendl wins

LONDON, June 10. (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl gave his Wimbledon hopes a boost today with a straight sets victory in the Beckenham Lawn Tennis Championships — only the second tournament win on grass in his glittering career.

Hubara bridge

RESULTS of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game held on Saturday: N/S: 1. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed Tawil 2. Desmond Pereira & Johnny 3. Shah & Ravi Bhatti E/W: 1. Mrs Pereira & D'Souza 2. Supre & Gajjar 3. Nazareth & Jawahir

Gomez stuns Agassi

Fourth seed wins French Open

PARIS, June 10. (Reuters): Andres Gomez of Ecuador won the men's singles title at the French Open tennis tournament today, beating American Andre Agassi 6-3 2-6 6-4 6-4 to claim his first Grand Slam victory at the age of 30.

"I have been coming here for 12 years and I've always dreamed of this moment," Gomez said after finishing off Agassi, 10 years his junior, in 152 minutes.

Fourth seed Gomez varied his game to pressure third seed Agassi into mistakes, and showed his experience when he struck back immediately after losing the second set to stamp his dominance on the match.

Agassi, who struggled to come to grips with his opponent's

varied strokeplay, was faster around the court than Gomez but the Ecuadorian surprised him with sudden acceleration and heavily-struck forehands.

The first set was finely balanced until the eighth game when Gomez broke serve before going on to win 6-3 with his fourth ace.

Agassi, wearing his familiar flamingo-pink leggings under black shorts with a shirt and sweat band to match, retaliated immediately, winning 6-2 in the second set to level the match.

Gomez, who had never progressed further than the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam event, began the second set looking as if he meant to wrap it all up quickly, immediately breaking the American's service.

But Agassi, ranked fifth in the world, stormed through the next five games to go 5-1 up, rediscovering the impressive form that swept him through to the final of the tournament which had lost top seeds Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker in the first round.

Gomez broke Agassi's service to love to pull back to 5-2 before the American, forcing his slower opponent to run more than in the first set, broke once more to square the match.

The Ecuadorian, defying the 10-year age gap between him and 20-year-old Agassi, turned the style back on in the third set, again breaking the American's service in the first game before going on to win 6-4 for 2-1 lead.

Agassi appeared bemused by his opponent's wily game, hurrying around the court as Gomez patiently waited for the moment to unleash a harder shot.

With the set poised at 4-4, Agassi went 40-15 up on his serve and took the third set.

Gomez, who served nine aces during the match, broke Agassi's serve once again in the third game of the fourth set for a decisive lead.

Although the American tried everything to raise his game, Gomez, who succeeded in eliminating most of his errors, served out to take the set 6-4 and win the match.

Gomez, a part-time shrimp farmer and one of the most likeable men in world tennis, danced around centre court in delight after finally clinching the big victory his talent has long demanded.

"I would like to dedicate this to Ecuador, my country," he told the capacity 17,000 crowd.

"I'm happy but I don't quite realise it yet. I need a few beers. Maybe tomorrow morning I'll read a newspaper and say 'ah, it's true.'"

A disappointed Agassi said: "He deserved it. I've only been coming here four years and hopefully I'll have a few more shots at it."

■ The Sanchez family of Spain avenged disappointing performances in singles at the French Open championships by winning two doubles titles yesterday.

Younger sister Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, paired with Mexico's Jorge Lozano, won the mixed doubles two hours after watching Yugoslavia's Monica Seles succeed her as women's singles champion.



Gomez kisses his trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Schwantz wins Austrian GP

SALZBURG, Austria, June 10. (Reuters): World championship rivals Kevin Schwantz and Wayne Rainey fought a two-man duel to take the first two positions in the Austrian 500cc motorcycle Grand Prix today.

Schwantz led from pole position on a Suzuki to claim his second successive win of the season, completing the winding Salzburger course in 38 minutes 21.304 seconds, a split second ahead of fellow-American Rainey.

Australian Michael Doohan was a mere spectator in the battle, finishing in third place on a Honda some 24 seconds behind.

Rainey, riding a Yamaha, trailed Schwantz until the 23rd lap, pulling ahead for just two laps before slipping back to second place and surrendering three points off his overall world championship lead. He now has 111 to Schwantz's 87 after six of

the 15 races.

Schwantz, victor in last month's West German Grand Prix, broke his own lap record on the 4.24 km alpine track, clocking one minute 18.34 seconds at an average speed of 194.97 kph. Last year he set a record of one minute 19.15 seconds while winning the Austrian title.

Italy's Luca Cadalora, on a Yamaha, won the 250cc race, a distance of 101.83 kms, in 34 minutes 6.908 seconds ahead of West German Martin Wimmer on an Aprilia.

American John Kocinski, who was third on a Yamaha, heads the World Cup standings with 92 points, 12 ahead of Cadalora.

Rain threatened to delay the start of the opening 125cc event but held off, allowing Spaniard Jorge Martinez to complete the course in 36 minutes 5.77 seconds on a Cobas-Rodax.

Police fire

VERONA, June 10. (Reuters): Italian police fired in the air to subdue West German World Cup hooligans in a clash near Lake Garda, police said today.

They said 13 West Germans were arrested after incidents in two towns close to the lake in which eight policemen were injured last night.

In a separate incident in Milan today, police said they arrested 29 Germans and one Italian after firing tear gas to break up West German supporters who fought with Yugoslav fans in the centre of the city.

Senna retains Canadian GP pole spot

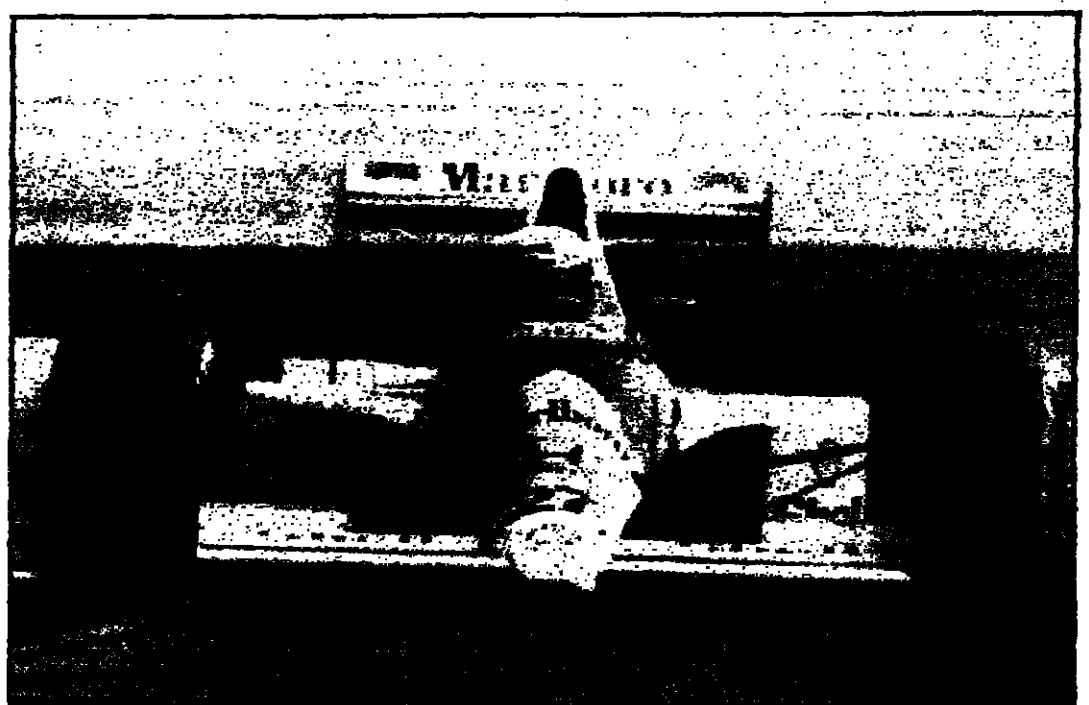
MONTREAL, June 10. (Reuters): Ayrton Senna was to start this evening's Canadian Grand Prix motor race from pole after a wet track yesterday kept drivers from improving on Friday's qualifying times.

The Brazilian master of qualifying set a blazing pace in his McLaren on Friday as he broke Alain Prost's previous course record of one minute 20.973 seconds on the 4.39 km (2.73-mile) circuit Gilles Villeneuve three times — the fastest a 120.399 — to earn his fourth successive pole and extend his career record to 46.

Gerhard Berger lost an exciting duel with Senna on Friday as the two exchanged quickest laps four times in rapid succession, but the Austrian remained second fastest to insure the familiar sight of two McLarens on the front row at the start of Sunday's race.

World champion Prost, who also bettered his previous course record here in the closing seconds of Friday's session, was to share the second row in his Ferrari with Italian Alessandro Nannini's Benetton.

Three time former world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil was to start from the third row in the second Benetton alongside the Williams of Bel-



Senna broke Prost's course record on Friday.

gian Thierry Boutsen, who won here last year when Senna's McLaren died less than three laps from the finish.

Piquet was quickest yesterday when he turned in a 1:27.124 lap

after the track had dried significantly, but his best time was still nearly seven seconds off Senna's record pace.

Senna, who won here in 1988, has become so accustomed to

starting from pole that he barely noticed his 46th.

"When I had it (his first pole) in 1985 it was an amazing feeling," Senna said. "After a certain number the number no longer

matters, the idea is just to play the game."

While morning rain may have cleaned Montreal's island race course of sand and dust that had many of the drivers complaining bitterly, it also washed away the chances of those who had realistic expectations of improving on Friday's provisional grid positions such as Ferrari driver Nigel Mansell of Britain and Tyrrell's rising French star Jean Alesi, who will share the fourth row.

"The major thing to come out of today is that the rain has cleaned up the track a lot," said Alesi, whose impressive second place showings on the streets of Monte Carlo and Phoenix have put him third in the drivers' championship on 13 points — nine back of Senna and three behind Berger.

Senna was unhappy about the prospect of predicted showers for today and was not looking forward to a repeat of last year's Canadian Grand Prix which turned out to be more of an aquaplaning contest than a motor race.

"If we have tomorrow rain as hard as we had last year it will become almost impossible to drive, or if you try you may find lots of cars on the walls," said the 30-year-old former world champion.

Czechoslovakia rout

FLORENCE, Italy, June 10. (AP): Czechoslovakia outplayed an overmatched United States team to win 5-1 today in its opening Group A match of the World Cup soccer tournament.

Czechoslovakia led 2-0 at half-time on goals from striker Tomas Skuhravy in the 26th minute and a 39th minute penalty from Michal Bilek.

Ivan Hasek made it 3-0 seven minutes into the second half, flicking home a corner kick with a near post header.

The United States hit back with 10 men after forward Eric Wynalda was sent off for a foul, and Paul Caligiuri reduced the deficit with a fine solo goal in the 61st minute.

But Skuhravy made it 4-1 with a header in the 79th minute and Milan Luhovy hit the fifth goal after almost three minutes of injury time.

The United States, which will host the World Cup in 1994, was making its first appearance in the tournament for 40 years. Its inexperience was obvious and its defence was under pressure for most of the game.

Czechoslovakia and the US are grouped with Italy and Austria in Group A of the 24-nation tournament.

Italy beat Austria 1-0 in Rome last night.

The Czech team dominated virtually from the start of today's game, played before a crowd of 33,226.

US goalie Tony Meola stopped an 11th minute shot from Bilek and Miroslav Kadlec fired just over the crossbar a minute later following a well-worked freekick.

Skuhravy's opening goal resulted from good work by Lubomir Moravac and poor marking. Three US defenders all moved to Moravac, who crossed delicately from the edge of the penalty area.

Skuhravy was completely unmarked and drove the ball low past the helpless Meola.

The Czechoslovaks created chance after chance and moved further ahead in the 40th minute. Defender Mike Windschmann fouled Ivan Hasek in the penalty area and Bilek blasted the ball past Meola on the resulting penalty.

Czechoslovakia moved further ahead six minutes after half-time when Hasek soared high over an immobile US defence to head home a corner kick. Meola, who had crashed into a goalpost on the previous play, did not challenge for the ball.

The agony continued for the US squad — the youngest in the championship — when Wynalda was sent off after being involved in an accident away from the ball.

Caligiuri salvaged some pride with a fine solo goal after 66 minutes — but it was a rare burst



Czechoslovakia's Miroslav Kadlec (left) and US' Bruce Murray go for the ball. Below: Skuhravy (right) puts the ball past Tony Meola. (Reuters wirephoto)



Czechoslovakia's Miroslav Kadlec (left) and US' Bruce Murray go for the ball. Below: Skuhravy (right) puts the ball past Tony Meola. (Reuters wirephoto)

of brilliance from the US team. Skuhravy scored his second goal with his header from a corner and Bilek then squandered a chance to make it 5-1, casually chipping a penalty shot that Meola easily saved.

Substitute Luhovy would not be denied, however, and added a fifth goal with the US defence again in disarray.

■ England, beaten in their opening games at both the 1986

World Cup finals and the European championships two years later, are determined to avoid a similar fate tomorrow.

Manager Bobby Robson, speaking at England's last press conference before the World Cup Group F clash with Ireland, said the result would be very important in setting up his team's approach to the rest of the tournament. (See also Page 18)

Today's games

Costa Rica vs Scotland — 6 pm (Kuwait time)
Ireland vs England — 8 pm



Khalid Khan

Tilak Sharma

Rangers rout Trishul

RANGERS Cricket Club defeated Trishul Cricket Club by 35 runs in a Summer League cricket match at EPI grounds on Friday.

After winning the toss, Trishul invited Rangers to bat. Rangers were waiting for that chance as both the sides were suffering from shortage of players.

Rangers started their innings through regular openers Khalid Y. Khan and captain Ali Rizvi. The batsmen never missed any chance to score and shared a 60-run partnership.

Ali Rizvi was out first for 33 valuable runs. Filie joined Khalid but was unfortunately

bowled for only 2 runs. Mehinder was adjudged for a duck, while Imran scored nine runs. Khalid was given caught behind in a disputed judgement at 44. When time was called off, Tilak Sharma was on 18 not out and Fazal was waiting to pop in. Rangers made 130 for 5 in 19 overs.

Trishul started their innings quite nicely but they were soon in trouble due to some accurate bowling by Tilak Sharma who got four wickets for 30. Khalid 2 for 35 and Mehinder 1 for 6 runs.

Trishul's innings closed at exactly 100 runs.